



MAED-VISNA/OVINE PROGRESSIVE PNEUMONIA

OPP in Sheep and Goats

OPP, also known as maedi-visna, is a slow viral disease affecting sheep. It causes chronic pneumonia, leading to emaciation and wasting. Symptoms include respiratory issues, mastitis, neurologic problems, and arthritis. The disease affects sheep aged 2 to 3 years but can impact adults of any age. Transmission occurs through colostrum ingestion, nose-to-nose contact, and rarely, via the uterine circulation in pregnant ewes. All sheep breeds are susceptible. Proper management is crucial to control and prevent its spread.

CAUSES OF OPP

OPP is caused by slow viral infections, mainly maedi-visna virus (MVV) in sheep and caprine arthritis encephalitis virus (CAEV) in goats. The virus spreads through ingestion of infected milk, nose-to-nose contact, and vertical transmission from infected pregnant ewes or does. Once infected, the virus establishes a lifelong infection, leading to chronic pneumonia, arthritis, mastitis, and neurologic problems. Since there's no cure or vaccine, prevention and management are vital to control its spread.

PREVENTION OF OPP

To prevent OPP in sheep and goats:

- Test and cull infected animals.
- Quarantine new animals for 30 days.
- Maintain clean and hygienic conditions.
- Minimize nose-to-nose contact.
- Use separate feeding and watering equipment.
- Ensure proper animal identification.
- Monitor and surveil for signs of infection.



***This is a
Notifiable disease***

Sources

Effects of arginine supplementation on reproductive performance in ... (n.d.-d). <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/HettingerREC/>

SYMPTOMS OF OPP

Symptoms of OPP in sheep and goats:

- Chronic pneumonia.
- Emaciation and wasting.
- Exercise intolerance.
- Respiratory distress.
- Coughing.
- Joint problems.
- Mastitis (in ewes and does).
- Neurologic issues.
- Weak offspring.

TREATMENT OF OPP

Antibiotics can address secondary infections, but there's no effective treatment or vaccine for OPP.

Factsheet provided by:

**The Idaho Sheep & Goat
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