

SECTION VI-6 ERADICATION OF MAEDI VISNA FROM THE FLOCK

6. ERADICATION OF MAEDI VISNA FROM THE FLOCK



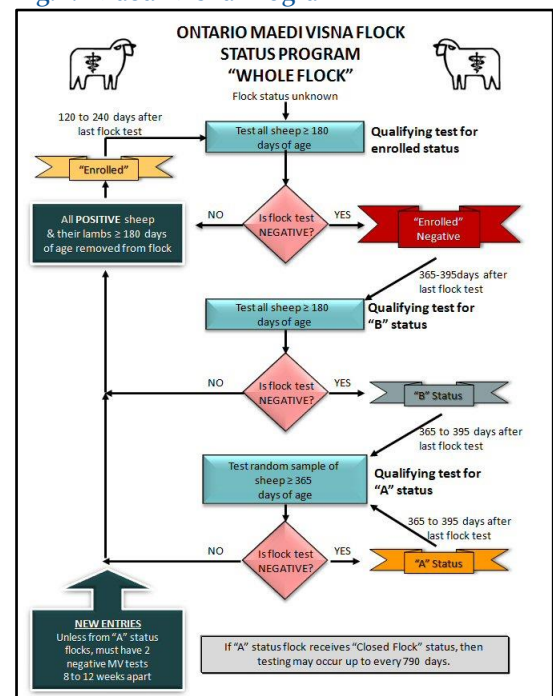
In sheep flocks, it is imperative that maedi visna (MV) infection is properly controlled and eradicated. In Canada, there are two control programs, including one in Ontario (the Ontario Maedi Visna Flock Status Program¹) – administered by the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency. This program allows for the eradication of MV and maintenance of a low-risk flock. Advantages to maintaining a low risk status include:

- Improved milk production – up to 15% more milk is produced from uninfected ewes than in infected, healthy appearing ewes in the same flock.
- Lower culling rates. Ewes with MV are more likely to leave the flock prior to 5 years of age, when a ewe should be at her most productive. Reasons for leaving include poor milk production, weight loss, pneumonia, poor reproductive performance.
- Better value of breeding stock. Ewe lambs to be sold are more valuable if from a low-risk flock.

There are a few methods that have shown to be successful in trying to eradicate MV in dairy flocks. These include the following:

- Culling ewes that have tested positive for MV
- Only allow lambs that are MV-negative to be used as replacements in the flock
- Removing lambs from MV-positive ewes before they have a chance to nurse
- Feed purchased colostrum or colostrum and milk from MV-negative ewes to removed lambs. If this is not an option, then pasteurize colostrum and milk from MV-positive ewes before feeding to their lambs.

Fig. 1. Maedi Visna Program



¹ http://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmezies/mv/OMVFSP_Index.html