

Wild Sheep Society Essay Contest - MOVI

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Hey watcha doin

Looking for a 4H sheep

How hard can that be?

I'm looking for a MOVI-free sheep

Lol wut

Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae

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Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae is a bacterium that affects domestic and wild sheep and goats. It is a respiratory pathogen that has led to lung infections. The Wild Sheep Foundation have been working on a vaccine and have gotten promising results, but there isn't a definite treatment yet.

It affects domestic and wild sheep and goats.

In domestic sheep, it's just like a cold. Literally, its effects are runny noses and coughs. It also lowers the growth rates, but doesn't usually kill them. In wild sheep however, it leads to fatal pneumonia. There are sometimes wild sheep survivors, but the immunity does not pass on to the lambs, meaning the surviving parents' lambs will die and the herd will not increase in population.

How does it spread?

MOVI is transmitted just like a cold. Sheep cough or sneeze, and infect other sheep. When domestic sheep graze, they can encounter wild sheep and graze together, spreading infection between wild and domestic sheep.

So if it doesn't kill your sheep, why do you care?

Exposure to MOVI has been reported to kill over 80% of an exposed bighorn sheep herd. There aren't that many – they could become extinct. And isn't your dad a hunter? There won't be any more bighorn sheep hunting if MOVI wipes them out. Plus, MOVI decreases growth rates in domestic sheep, increasing farmers' costs and the price of lamb chops.

What can I do?

Get your herd tested and remove the sheep that test positive, (eat them, it's perfectly safe). Wean your sheep within 2 months and separate from mom since lambs don't become infected within that time frame. Don't bring new sheep into your flock without testing and quarantining. Fence them off, so wild sheep don't get in.

But I don't have sheep...

You could buy lamb chops from MOVI free farms, share this info with your friends and family, and donate to the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia.

Found my lamb!

