

“In some flocks, I think the disease has crept in so slowly and quietly that the owners don’t recognize how much more production would be possible if the sheep did not have the infection.”

CINDY WOLF, DVM
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, RETIRED

“I am absolutely amazed that this disease has been allowed free roam through our industry — much like its more publicized partner, scrapie. My opinion is that it is not possible for the sheep industry to coexist with either of them. They have to go or we will.”

CLARK BREDAHL, COLUMNIST
THE SHEPHERD MAGAZINE

“I continue to teach the introductory sheep production course here at Iowa State University, and every year I teach students about OPP. The information you provide periodically makes it quite easy for me to keep my students up to date . . . Keep up the good work!”

DR CURTIS R YOUNGS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

“When OPP struck Iceland’s sheep, the average replacement rate had to increase to 25% annually. Now that they are free of the disease, many Icelandic ewes are producing way into their teens again.”

BRIAN MAGEE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, RETIRED

DESCRIPTION OF A TYPICAL OPP EWE

“Let’s suppose that I have a good ewe lamb that I breed to lamb at two years of age. She gives me a single, a lovely strong lamb. I forgive her for giving me a single since it is her first and she is a twin herself. Next year I get twins from her. Those are also nice but not quite as good as the previous one. That is assumed natural since they are twins. Mother is now three and since she raised twins she is not in as good a condition going into breeding as she was the previous year. In next lambing—she is now four—she twins again and this time the twins are born a good size but fail to thrive. And mother is positively thin after raising these two. At this time many would decide to sell the ewe, to someone looking for cheap breeding stock. After all, the ewe is only 4-1/2 years old. If she has been sold for breeding, (good buy, she is a twinner and should have a few years left) she will probably be dead two years later. This would be a typical OPP ewe.”

STEFANIA DIGNUM (1945—2007)
RENOWNED ICELANDIC BREEDER
THE SHEPHERD MAGAZINE, 1989

OPP

Like long-term smoking —
Less production & shorter life. Have
you tested for the OPP virus?



Any animals with a dry, hacking cough?

Hard udders? No Milk? Some lambs not
gaining as well as they should?

Some ewes limping, but it’s not foot rot?

OPP can affect the udder, joints and
nervous system as well as the lungs.

www.OPPsociety.org

952-955-2596

THE **OPP** CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY

WHO WE ARE — WHAT WE DO

Long before the words OVINE PROGRESSIVE PNEUMONIA ever hit the popular press, large numbers of cull ewes were purchased off the Western range as low-cost replacements for Midwestern flocks, the theory being that those ewes could be productive for a few more years under more intensive management. The combination of OPPV-infected animals (it's now known that nearly half of all sheep on the open range carry the OPP/maedi-visna virus) with the close confinement of winter lambing created a perfect storm . . . 45% of all Midwestern flocks are now infected, and the OPP/MV virus is common throughout North America.

By the late 1970s, producers wanting to address OPP were beginning to learn that there was more they could do besides just "cull the lungers." And then, in 1990, a small group led by Wisconsin science teacher and commercial producer Jim Schultz, along with his veterinarian Dr. Bob Leder, formed the OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY. Restocking from within after culling heavily, Jim had difficulty locating OPP-negative rams so an early priority of the organization was to establish a network of like-minded producers.

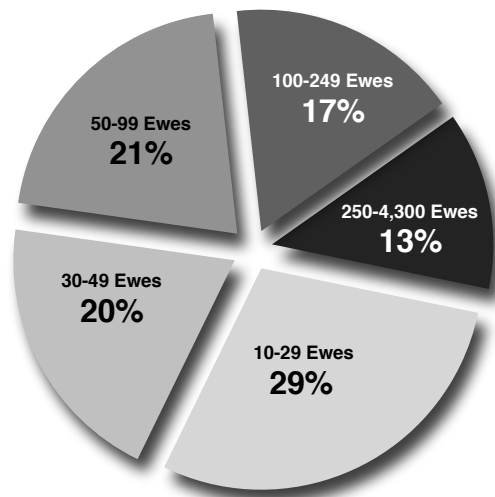
Word spread. "The Shepherd" magazine published our annual roster during the early years, and before long OPP SOCIETY members from all over the U.S. and Canada were learning from each other and collaborating with researchers. Today, nearly 30 years later, the OPP SOCIETY continues to serve as an educational resource and networking hub for producers and veterinarians concerned about OPP, as well as the related condition in goats: CAE, or caprine arthritis encephalitis.

OPP can be as obvious as Stefania's "Description of a Typical OPP Ewe" (see reverse). Or OPP can be more subtle, affecting the udder, joints and nervous system as well as the lungs. The indirect effects of pulmonary compromise alone can be significant on the whole animal, resulting in a negative impact on productivity.

For more information, go to:

www.OPPsociety.org

OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY
Large & Small Flocks Working Together



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

The OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY welcomes both purebred and commercial producers of all breeds, veterinarians, researchers, educators and others who share our interest in ovine health issues. Members' dues are our sole source of funding.

We represent many different breeds and various situations. Some have never had an animal positive for the OPP virus despite repeated testing; some of us began with clean stock; others are in the process of eradicating the disease from our flocks. In other words, OPP Society membership is not intended to indicate freedom from OPP, but rather an active concern about the effects of this disease within our own flocks and within the North American sheep industry as a whole.

YES — I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT THE OPP SOCIETY!

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR DUES
\$15/year - \$25/2 years - \$50/5 years

JEAN T WALSH, TREASURER
228 MAIN STREET
JORDANVILLE, NY 13361

OPTIONAL — INCLUDE INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY (BREED/S, # EWES, TESTING, ETC.)