

# *Johne's Disease in Small Ruminants*



## **What it is –**

- Johne's (YO-knees) disease is an infectious and contagious gastrointestinal disease of sheep, goats, and other ruminants (including cattle, elk, deer and bison) caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP). It is also known as paratuberculosis.
- The MAP organism is most commonly transmitted in the manure of infected adult animals.
- Lambs/kids typically become infected when they swallow water, milk or feed that has been contaminated by manure from infected animals.
- Most owners are taken by surprise when the infection is diagnosed and learn too late that the infection has taken hold in multiple animals in a flock.

## **Disease Effects –**

- Prevalence of the disease in sheep and goats in the United States is not known.
- The costs of this infection are due to increased culling and reduced production-limited weight gain and poor fleece growth and quality.
- Flocks that do not address the infection may lose up to 10% of adult sheep or goats each year.

➤ There is no cure for Johne's disease, therefore prevention is the key to control.

## **Additional Resources:**

- [Johne's Sheep Q&A Booklet](#)
- [USDA APHIS – Johne's Disease](#)
- [Johne's Information Center](#)
- [Johne's – Technical Factsheet](#)