

Ram Epididymitis (Brucella ovis)



What it is –

- *Brucella ovis* (*B. ovis*) is a bacterial disease that affects sheep.
- *B. ovis* is an economically important cause of epididymitis, orchitis, and impaired fertility in rams.
- A flock infected with *B. ovis* may experience decreased pregnancy rates due to ram infertility, abortions, and increased lamb mortality at lambing time.

Control –

- The sheep industry and the Animal Industry Board implemented a Ram Epididymitis (*B. ovis*) control program in 1988.
- The program consists of interstate and intrastate regulations and a voluntary *B. ovis* Free Flock certification.
- The main component of the program is testing of rams.
 - ❖ All rams 6 months of age and older must test-negative for *Brucella ovis* or originate from a *B. ovis* Free Flock prior to sale, movement to another operation, or importation for any purpose other than immediate slaughter or feeding for slaughter.

Additional Resources:

[Ram Epididymitis \(*Brucella ovis*\) Pamphlet](#)

[Voluntary B.Ovis Free Status – SD Administrative Rule](#)