

## **OVINE PROGRESSIVE PNEUMONIA (OPP)**

### **ETIOLOGY**

OPP is caused by an RNA virus. The virus persists in the white blood cells of infected sheep. Antibodies may not appear for several months after infection. Transmission occurs by ingestion of colostrum or milk from an infected ewe or by aerosol. The virus causing CAE in goats is closely related.

### **CLINICAL FINDINGS**

The disease most often occurs in sheep greater than four years old. The main signs are slowly progressive wasting and increasing respiratory diseases. Secondary pasteurella pneumonia may occur leading to death. Encephalitis, arthritis and mastitis can occur rarely.

### **DIAGNOSIS**

OPP infection can be diagnosed by serology. Differential diagnosis includes pulmonary adenomatosis, verminous pneumonia, pulmonary caseous lymphadenitis, listeriosis, scrapie, rabies, and louping ill.

### **CONTROL**

There is no effective treatment. There is currently no regulatory control program in New York State. A test and slaughter program, including lambs of seropositive sheep is a useful method of control. Testing would continue at six month intervals until at least three negative tests are obtained. A control program of this nature is being considered in New York.