



Maedi Visna: Protecting Your Flock

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Maedi Visna (MV): The Invisible Threat to UK sheep



*Slow, contagious, and
costly – often spreading
before signs appear.*

It can take years for clinical signs of MV to develop, hence it being referred to as an 'iceberg' disease. Often, between 30-70% of the flock is infected before seeing signs of disease.



What is Maedi Visna (MV)?



A chronic viral disease of sheep



Affects lungs, udder, joints, and central nervous system



No cure or vaccine, the only way to manage the disease is to prevent infection or cull



Once infected, sheep remain infected for life

Why MV Matters



Reduced productivity and milk yield



Increased culling and replacement costs



Welfare impacts from chronic illness



Spreads silently within and between flocks



Easily introduced with bought in stock

How MV Spreads



Close contact between sheep

Including shared equipment etc.



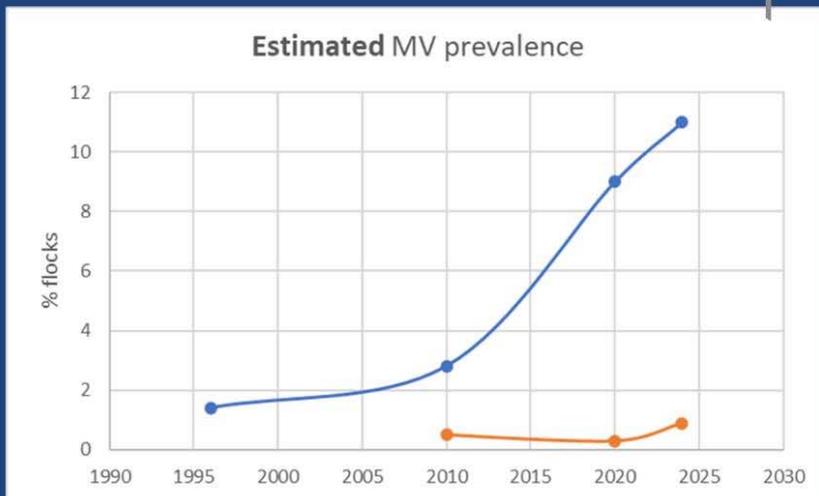
Buying-in infected animals



From ewe to lamb
(via milk/colostrum)

*Many flocks don't know MV is present until
damage is done.*

How much MV is there in the UK?



The prevalence of MV in the UK flock has risen steeply over the last 30 years.

Managing MV risk



So how can MV be controlled?

- **Regular testing**
 - Annual cull ewe screen
 - MV Monitoring (PSGHS Monitoring Scheme)
 - MV Accreditation (PSGHS Scheme)
- **Careful sourcing of replacement stock**
 - MV monitored or accredited
- **Strict Biosecurity**
 - Quarantine any bought-in animals and test them for MV before introducing them to the flock
 - Do not share equipment or buildings with flocks of unknown MV status
 - Good, secure farm boundaries with a 3 meter gap where possible
 - Consider closing the flock

The PSGHS plays a key role in MV control

Premium Sheep & Goat Health Scheme (PSGHS)



What is the PSGHS?

- UK-wide accreditation and monitoring schemes
- Designed to help control and prevent diseases like MV
- Based on testing, surveillance, and movement controls

What are the PSGHS schemes?

- **Accreditation:**
 - Strict testing regime and biosecurity rules
 - A large proportion of the flock tested
 - A very high level of confidence in flock status
- **Monitoring:**
 - Test a small proportion of strategically selected animals
 - Reassurance of flock status for buyers
 - An early warning system in case infection is introduced

Why controlling MV matters



Why join a PSGHS scheme?

- Protect flock health and welfare
- Reduce losses and economic impact
- Increase buyer confidence when selling stock
- Support a more resilient UK sheep industry



Talk to your vet or visit www.sheepandgoathealth.co.uk to learn more about MV accreditation or monitoring and take a step towards better flock health today.