

4. **WHOLE FLOCK TEST:** (Appendix 1)a. **Initial Qualifying Test:**

- i. All sheep 180 days of age or greater (calculated from birth date) within the flock *must* be sampled as described in Section 3.
- ii. All sheep less than 180 days within the enrolled flock, must be identified and recorded as described in Section 3.
- iii. No pre-screening of animals is permitted prior to submission of samples. Pre-screening means first submitting samples for non-official testing, removing the positive samples and submitting the rest for official testing.

b. **Results from Initial Qualifying Test:**

- i. Once results have been recorded and positive sheep and their offspring < 180 days of age have been removed, the flock status is “Enrolled”.
  - (1) If the Initial Qualifying test is negative, the status can be designated as “Enrolled - negative flock test”.
  - (2) If the flock test is negative go to Section 4-f Qualifying Test for “B” Status.

c. **If the flock test is not negative then,** (Appendix 3)

- i. All sheep with a “positive” test *must* be removed as well as their lambs < 180 days of age within 30 days of the test date.
- ii. All sheep with a “suspect” test may be immediately removed.
  - (1) If they are not they *must* be held in isolation and *must* be removed or be retested within 30 days of the test date.
  - (2) If “suspect” or “positive” results are obtained on the retest, the sheep *must* be removed from the flock within 30 days of the retest date.
- iii. All sheep with a “non-specific” test result
  - (1) *must* be held in isolation and
  - (2) *must* be removed or be retested within 30 days of the test date.
  - (3) If “positive” or “suspect” on the retest they *must* be removed within 30 days of the retest date.
- iv. As of the date of the initial qualifying test, all biosecurity requirements *must* be followed.

d. **Follow-up Qualifying Test after a positive whole flock test.**

- i. *Must* be scheduled between 120 and 240 days after the date of the initial qualifying test date.
- ii. If this test is negative, then go to Section 4-f Qualifying Test for “B” Status.
- iii. If one or more samples are positive, then go to back to Section 4-c and follow the protocol.

e. **Qualifying Test for “B” status - Whole Flock Test**

- i. To achieve “B” status, the flock must receive two consecutive negative whole flock tests 120 to 240 days apart.
- ii. All sheep  $\geq$  180 days of age must be tested within 7 days.
- iii. If the flock Qualifying Test for “B” status is negative, then go to Section 4-f.
- iv. If the flock qualifying test for “B” status is not negative, then go to Section 4-c and follow the protocol.
- v. All biosecurity requirements *must* be followed.

f. **Qualifying Test for “A” status - Random Sample Test**

- i. To achieve “A” status, the flock must receive
  - (1) 2 consecutive negative whole flock tests 120 to 240 days apart and
  - (2) An additional negative random sample flock test 365 to 395 days later.
- ii. Between 365 and 395 days after the second consecutive negative flock test, a randomly selected proportion of all sheep  $\geq$  365 days of age *must* be tested (note change of age).
- iii. The statistically derived sample of sheep will be randomly selected and be large enough to detect MV infection at a prevalence of 5% or greater with a 95% confidence interval (Appendix 8)

- iv. Use the protocol as outlined in Section 3-o to select animals for testing.
  - v. ID's of all sheep in the flock as well as all sheep sampled must be recorded.
  - vi. If all sheep tested receive a negative MV test, then the flock will be awarded "A" status.
  - vii. If one sheep receives a positive test, then the producer *must* follow the protocol as outlined in Section 4-i.
- g. **To maintain "A" status**, the producer *must*
- i. Continue to have a random flock test between 365 and 395 days after the previous negative flock test, following the protocol as outlined in Sections 4-f.
  - ii. Failure to do so without indicating extenuating circumstance in writing to the Program Administrator<sup>4</sup> may result in a loss of status.
- h. **Maintaining "A" status - Closed Flock Designation:**
- i. A closed flock is one that:
    - (1) never brings in new sheep of unknown or lower status regardless of subsequent testing.
    - (2) only brings in semen and embryos that meet the biosecurity requirements
    - (3) only brings in sheep from other "A" status flocks.
  - ii. After achieving "A" status, closed flocks may choose to randomly test the flock at intervals of up to 2 years, specifically up to 790 days.
  - iii. Producers that wish to be designated as a closed flock *must* ask for such designation in writing from the project administrator.
  - iv. Otherwise the protocol as outlined in 4-f *must* be followed.
- i. **Receiving a positive MV test result after receiving "B" or "A" status:**
- i. **If after at least two whole flock negative tests, one or more samples are test positive:**
    - (1) If  $\geq 5\%$  of the samples are positive (e.g. 5 or more of 100 samples)
      - (a) Those positive sheep and their lambs < 180 days of age *must* be removed within 30 days of the test date
        - (i) The status will change to "Enrolled" and
        - (ii) The flock must start at 4-c to reestablish a negative flock status.
      - (b) If the positive sheep are not removed as outlined above, then the flock will have no status in the program.
      - (c) It is recommended that the producer schedule a visit with the flock veterinarian to discuss where the program may have broken down (e.g. break in biosecurity). Appendix 6.
    - (2) If the number of sheep receiving this "positive" result represents a flock prevalence of 5% or less (e.g.  $\leq 4$  samples of 100), then flock status can be regained through the following method:
      - (a) The test positive sheep and their lambs < 180 days of age are removed within 30 days of the test date.
      - (b) All sheep  $\geq 180$  days of age are retested 120 to 240 days after the positive flock test.
      - (c) This subsequent whole flock test is negative.
      - (d) The previous status is reinstated ("B" or "A")
      - (e) If this subsequent whole flock test is not negative, then the protocol at Section 4-i-  
(1) *must* be followed.
  - ii. **If after a random sample test, one or more samples are test positive:**
    - (1) If more than one sample is positive, then the flock prevalence is  $\geq 5\%$ ,
      - (a) the status will change to "Enrolled" and the flock must start at 4-c to reestablish a negative flock test.
      - (b) It is recommended that the producer schedule a visit with the flock veterinarian to discuss where the program may have broken down (e.g. break in biosecurity). Appendix 6.

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- (2) If only one sample is test positive, then the flock prevalence is estimated at 5%. "A" status can be reestablished by following the protocol at 4-i-(2).