

WHAT TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE FOR BISON WITH MCF?

THERE IS NO TREATMENT OR VACCINE FOR MCF

BE AWARE!

- Do not graze sheep, particularly lambs 5-9 months old, with bison
- Keep sheep as far away from bison as possible
- OvHV-2 is fragile in the environment, surviving for only a few days depending on the humidity and temperature, so sheep and bison can graze the same pastures but over separate seasons
- Ensure transport haulers have not recently transported sheep

IF YOU CAN SEE BISON FROM THE SHEEP PASTURE THEN THEY MAY BE TOO CLOSE!



WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

Contact your herd health veterinarian to discuss disease control and prevention strategies, and visit:

BISON PRODUCERS OF ALBERTA

www.bisoncentre.com
Email: info@bisoncentre.com
Phone: 780.955.1995

ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS

www.ablamb.ca
Email: info@ablamb.ca
Phone: 403.948.8533

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Canada



Government of Alberta



MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER

WHAT IS MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER?

Commonly called MCF, Malignant Catarrhal Fever is an infectious disease affecting certain ruminants, particularly bison, and is **caused most commonly by sheep (ovine) herpes virus-2 (OvHV-2).**

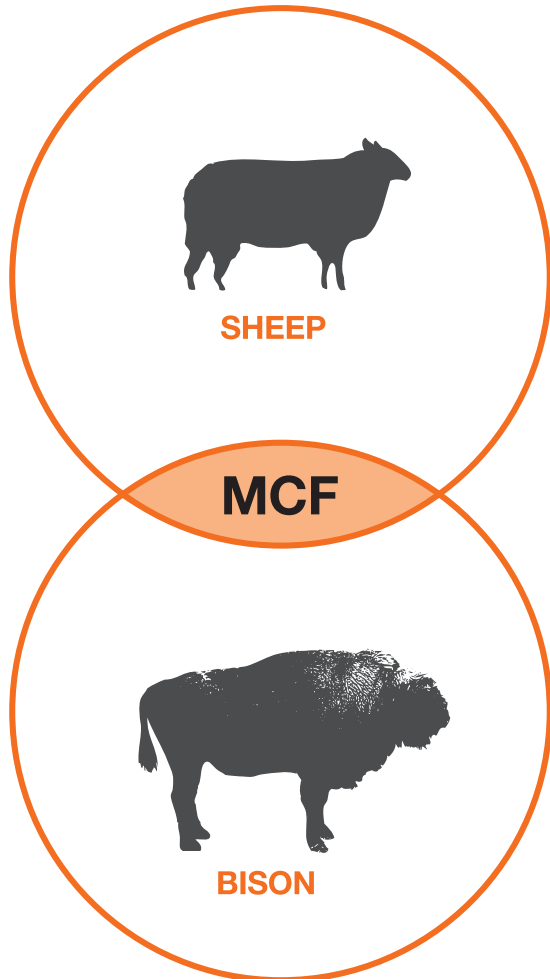
It does not affect people.



BISON PRODUCERS OF ALBERTA

WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF MALIGNANT CATARRHAL FEVER?

MCF infection results in the death of all infected bison. Losses of up to 50% of some bison herds have been reported, economically devastating those bison producers.



LAMBS, 5-9 MONTHS OLD PRESENT THE GREATEST RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION, ESPECIALLY IN HIGH NUMBERS

WHAT DOES MCF LOOK LIKE?

The incubation period for MCF varies widely. In bison, it is often a month or more, but is shortened by stress, such as handling.

Signs of disease last 1-7 days and usually result in death. Sheep display no signs of infection or disease.

HOW IS MCF SPREAD?

AMONG SHEEP

- Can be passed by direct contact, thru the air to herd mates or neighboring animals
- Almost all sheep are carriers of OvHV-2, but are otherwise healthy
- OvHV-2 is spread by nasal secretions of lambs and occasionally adult sheep
- Lambs, 5-9 months old, are the greatest risk of passing the virus, especially in large numbers

FROM SHEEP TO BISON

- May be passed by direct contact, thru the air or on equipment that has been in contact with infected or virus carrying sheep. E.g. transport trucks
- Transmission over several kilometers has been observed, depending on prevailing wind conditions, humidity, temperature, sheep density
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever virus may lay dormant in some bison and become an active disease later, which may be brought on by stress
- A bison with MCF will not transmit the disease to other bison; they are a dead end host



SIGNS OF DISEASE ARE OFTEN SUBTLE IN BISON, AS THEY TRY TO MASK THE CLINICAL SIGNS UNTIL NEAR DEATH. TRAUMA CAN RESULT FROM ATTACK BY HERDMATES.

MCF IN BISON IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Sudden death
- Fever, depression, weakness, off feed
- Nasal discharge
- Clouding and or ulceration of the eyes
- Respiratory problems such as coughing, shortness of breath, open mouth breathing
- Erosions in the mouth and upper respiratory tract
- Diarrhea or dysentery (bloody diarrhea), in some cases
- Followed by death of the affected bison



Cloudy Eye



MCF Calf

HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may diagnose Malignant Catarrhal Fever either:

- 1 With a blood test to detect the OvHV-2 virus; a technique called PCR testing or,
- 2 By examining a recently deceased animal and sending samples for further microscopic evaluation. Samples may include from the intestine, stomach, upper respiratory tract, lymph nodes or oral mucosal tissue