

transmission

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A Must See! Controversy - Frustration - Good science - Hard work- Patience - Heartbreak - & Hope!

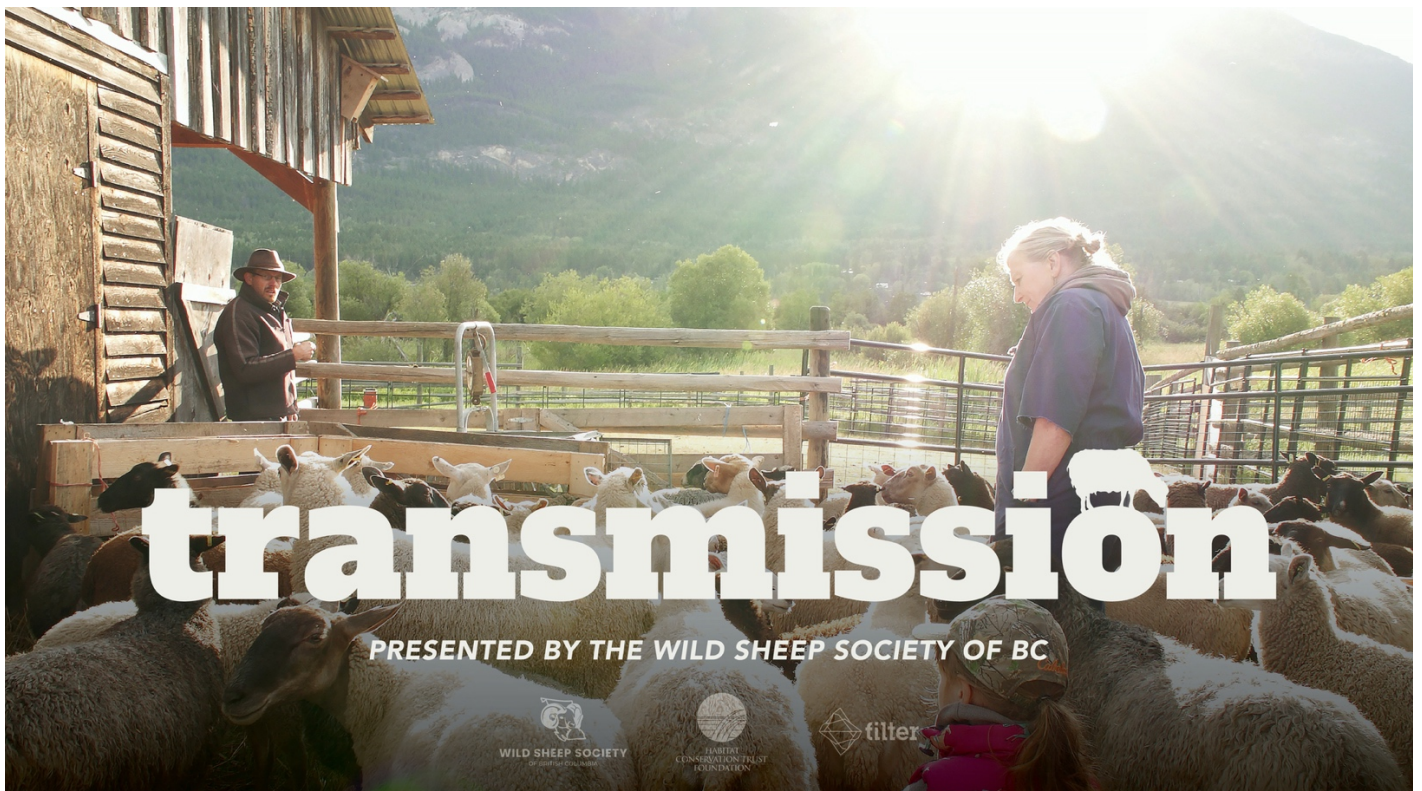
A film created to raise awareness about *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi)

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (MOVI) is a bacteria that has led to the pandemic spreading through wild sheep.

TRANSMISSION looks at the people on the front lines fighting the disease, the people on the ground working for a better future for our wild - and domestic - sheep populations.

One of those people is the subject of our film, BC wildlife veterinarian Dr. Helen Schwantje. Helen is a sheep nut. While studying as a wildlife biologist, she majored in wild sheep studies and now raises sheep on her farm. TRANSMISSION follows Helen on what could be the most important pursuit of her career; finding a cure for MOVI.

The standard method of dealing with MOVI is to capture wild sheep, test them, and then cull the positive ones before they can infect others. The physically and emotionally draining exercise drives Helen and her team to take a different approach... to eliminate MOVI at the source. This is where our film begins.



<https://youtu.be/zO8M6eRG0tU>

What Is Movi?

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M. ovi) is a bacterial species commonly found in the nasal cavity and sinuses of apparently healthy domestic sheep and goats.

It is transmitted to wild sheep and goats (bighorn sheep, thimhorn sheep and mountain goats) via nose-to-nose contact and, less commonly, aerosol/droplet transmission. In bighorn sheep, and very likely thimhorn sheep, M. ovi has been associated with large all-aged die-offs due to pneumonia, often followed by years of lower lamb birth and survival rates that can have devastating population impacts.

Interactions between domestic and wild populations can occur throughout the year. However, these occurrences tend to increase during times of wild sheep rut.

M. ovi outbreaks:

Some domestic sheep and goats carry M. ovi in their noses.

Roaming wild sheep pick up the bacteria when they visit or encounter domestic animals.

M. ovi positive animals spread the pathogen throughout their herd, causing a die-off.

Some ewes develop long-term "chronic" infections.

Ewes may carry bacteria and infect lambs for many years with little immunity; they often die before two months of age.

