

Animal Users Health and Safety Program

# **ZOONOTIC CONCERN**

## contagious ecthyma or orf

**Cause:** parapoxvirus

Occurrence in animals: primarily young small ruminants

**Source in animals:** skin vesicles and scabs

**Exposure:** direct contact

### Symptoms:

- Animals:
  - vesicles and scabs around the mouth, lips, and nostrils of lambs, or on the udder and teats of milking females
- Humans:
  - skin blisters, pustules and scabs
  - usually resolve on their own
  - secondary bacterial infection can occur

## **Precautions:**

- Good personal hygiene:
  - WASH HANDS after handling animals.
  - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals and their environment.
- Wear gloves when handling sheep or their contaminated environment.
- Virus is very resistant to disinfectants and drying and can persist in the environment for a long time.
- Barn clothes and boots can carry microorganisms to other areas.

#### Additional information about contagious ecthyma can be found at:

http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/contagious\_ecthyma.pdf http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/Documents/OHP/ORF.pdf

Environmental Health & Safety 607-255 8200 http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/

Occupational Medicine at Gannett Center for Animal Resources and Education 607-255 6960 http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/

607-2534378 http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/