

# Occupational Health and Safety Working with Sheep

When working with sheep, you should be familiar with the following safe practices and potential health risks:

## **Potential Physical Injury**

Sheep are large domestic animals that are normally docile. However, they can become dangerous especially when isolated from their flock. Jumping is common in sheep. They can jump with enough force to break a handler's legs. Butting is another defensive activity of sheep. The rule of handling is to never turn your back on the animal when in their pens. Ergonomic injuries such as back strain can occur from handling and restraining sheep due to their size and strength. Individuals with pre-existing back or joint

## **Contagious Ecthyma (Orf)**

This poxviral disease is known as contagious ecthyma or soremouth in sheep and goats, and orf in people.

the outset, diarrhea is watery but later becomes hemorrhagic, either with traces of blood or highly hemorrhagic stools. Diarrhea lasts an average of four days and about 50% of patients experience vomiting. *E. coli* O157:H7 is feared primarily because of complications, which can include hemolytic uremic syndrome, or thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura.

### **Giardiasis**

*Giardia* is a flagellate protozoan that lives in the antergeln tdia