The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S. sheep industry is to eradicate scrapie from our borders by 2017. In addition, it is the objective to have the United States recognized as scrapie free in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). This quarterly publication is created specifically for those of you in the field who are also working to achieve this goal.

This newsletter brings together, into one spot, current information from all 50 states, as well as from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and any other organization providing scrapie news, and reports it back to the field.

If you have first-hand accounts that you believe would be relevant for others to read or have information that you would like included in this newsletter, please email judym@sheepusa.org.

WASHINGTON — Sheep producers on the spring trip to the nation’s capital were treated to small doses of promising news about USDA’s ongoing plans to eradicate scrapie across the country.

In a meeting with Dr. Jack Shere at USDA headquarters, producers, industry leaders and ASI staff learned that eliminating the disease by the year 2017 is still an attainable goal. But the stretch run will be tough.

“Detecting the last cases of scrapie is always the most difficult – and the most costly,” Shere, associate deputy administrator of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) Veterinary Services, told producers. Shortly after the meeting, the office of Dr. John Clifford, chief veterinarian at APHIS, clarified the producers’ direct question about the target date via e-mail by saying “it is likely that we will see a few cases occurring after 2017 and will not meet World Organization for Animal Health [OIE] criteria for freedom [no cases for 7 years] until at least 2024 and probably closer to 2036.”

The agency is also considering the proposition of a “negligible scrapie-risk” category, which the OIE has indicated may be included in a future draft of the OIE Scrapie Chapter.

“The negligible risk category opened up many markets for the beef industry and our current thinking is that having such a category for scrapie could be positive for the sheep industry, but we’ll need to review the details,” Shere noted. “It will be important, however, for the U.S. sheep industry to maintain at least its current level of surveillance and continue to work toward eradication.” Shere stressed that surveillance of goats will need to be ramped up to accomplish the goal.

In Fiscal Year 2013, APHIS tested 7,563 goats. The agency noted that since slaughter surveillance began, it has tested roughly 19,000 goats without finding any positive animals. However, a few positive goats have been found through testing clinical goats and goats in infected sheep flocks.

In summary, the prevalence of scrapie in goats, while not zero, is likely lower than 0.02 percent.

As for sheep, APHIS reported that in Fiscal year 2013 it tested 35,282 sheep, and that the prevalence of scrapie was determined to be less than 0.03 percent, a decline of 90 percent. At the start of slaughter surveillance in 2003, the prevalence was 0.2 percent.

Producers questioned whether or not a new OIE negligible risk category would ultimately slow the progress of eradication. Specifics on the proposed new category have not been released and APHIS could not answer that question.

“Changes to the OIE standards usually take one to two years once the revised standards have been drafted,” Clifford’s office replied after the meeting. “It is our understanding that the OIE has yet to begin drafting the revised Code Chapter on Scrapie.”

APHIS provides shipping boxes and labels for the submission of heads for scrapie testing at no cost to producers. Many veterinary diagnostic laboratories also accept heads for scrapie testing. To request a box or more information on sample submission, contact the Veterinary Services’ office for your state. State contact information is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices. These offices can also be reached through the toll free number, 866-873-2824.

Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing
Sheep and Goats

As of May 31, 2014
29,478 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing:
27,978 RSSS and 1,500 on-farm samples (23,842 sheep and 5,636 goats).
15 sheep and 7 goats have tested positive

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

Since April 1, 2003
425,890 samples collected
473 NVSL* confirmed positives

In FY 2014 (as of May 31)
27,978 samples collected (5,236 from goats)
4 NVSL* confirmed positives

* National Veterinary Services Laboratories

Infected and Source Flocks
New Statuses by Year - Fiscal Years 1997 to 2014*

Scrapie Confirmed Cases in FY 2014
As of May 31, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Scrape</th>
<th>RSSS Cases</th>
<th>Field Cases</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Novel-like)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Untraceable: 2**

Reported by State of ID tag. Collected in FY 2014 and confirmed by June 15, 2014. Field cases include animals removed from infected/source flocks, so State totals often include several animals from the same flock. *All goats. **Investigation is ongoing, but likely untraceable.

Scrapie Confirmed Cases in FY 2014
As of May 31, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>SHEEP</th>
<th>GOATS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RSSS</td>
<td>On-Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ALL STATES</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Investigation ongoing: Indiana is the State of ID on the animals' serial tags, and may not be the State of origin.

New Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks
FY 2014 - As of May 31, 2014

New infected flocks—3
New source flocks—2
Percent of RSSS Sheep Samples that Tested Positive for Classical Scrapie Weighted by Face Color

*Fiscal Years 2003 to 2014*

* Through May 31, 2014—Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from the same flock. Does not include Nor98-like scrapie cases found through RSSS (2 in FY 2007, 1 in FY 2008, 4 in FY 2010, 1 in FY 2011). The increase in FY 2014 is not statistically meaningful due to small sample size.

Total Slaughter Surveillance Samples Collected by VS District Where Collected

*FY 2014*

Scrappie Flock Certification Program: Participating Flocks
As of May 31, 2014

Total Enrolled Flocks: 450
- Export Monitored: 186
- Export Certified: 15
- Selective Monitored: 249

Surveillance Preparedness and Response Services (SPRS) Districts

Legend:
- District One
- District Two
- District Three
- District Four
- District Five
- District Six
Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

Maryland Small Ruminant Page: www.sheepandgoat.com/scrapie.html
Scrapie SharePoint: http://animalhealth/scrapie/default.aspx
(Federal employees can access this password-protected site by emailing earl.t.thorpe@aphis.usda.gov to receive a password. State employees can request a copy on CD.)