

SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



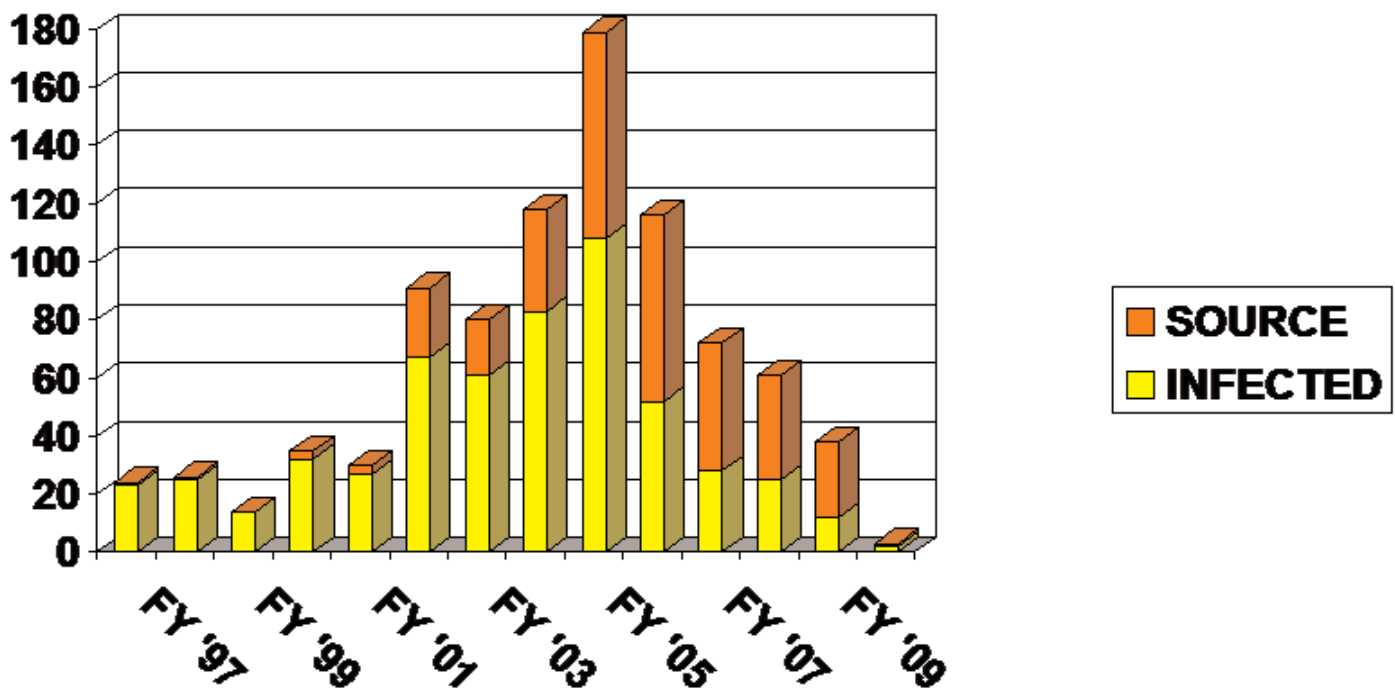
December 2009

The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S. sheep industry is to eradicate scrapie from our borders. In addition, it is the objective to have the World Organization for Animal Health, OIE, declare the United States scrapie free by 2017. 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 let us know at becky@sheepusa.org.

Infected and Source Flocks New Statuses by Year FY 1997 – 2010*



*Through November 30, 2009

National Scrapie Eradication Program Update

The United States is well on its way to eradicating scrapie and meeting the World Organization for Animal Health scrapie-free standards. Hard work by producers, the states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have yielded impressive numbers. This cooperative effort has resulted in substantial decreases in the percent of black-face cull sheep sampled at slaughter that have tested positive and in the number of scrapie cases and new infected flocks.

Program Update as of November 30, 2009:

The number of new infected and source flocks indentified by the end of the fiscal year, decreased from 61 in FY 2008 to 28 in FY 2009.

As of November 30, there were 8,186 slaughter surveillance samples collected for FY 2010. Three of

the sheep were confirmed positive for scrapie by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

The percent of black-faced sheep found positive at slaughter has decreased by 82 percent since the initiation of slaughter surveillance in FY 2003 and the end of FY 2009.

Participation in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) continues to be a positive for the industry. According to information from USDA, as of November 30, 2009, there were 1,734 flocks participating in the SFCP. Of these, 553 were certified flocks, 1,128 were complete monitored flocks, 48 were export monitored flocks and five were selective monitored flocks.

There has been one goat case in FY 2010. It was confirmed rectal biopsy positive in November 2009 and originated in the same herd in Michigan as the positive goat cases that were found in FY 2008. The positive goat has been held in quarantine for research by USDA's Agricultural Research Service since 2008.

Producers are reminded that at this point in the eradication process, it is more crucial than ever to be aware of the signs of scrapie, regularly monitor their flocks, make sure breeding stock are properly identified with official tags when moved and promptly report any suspected case of the disease to their state veterinarians or Veterinary Services area offices. Reporting is the right thing to do to protect the national flock. Suspect animals can be reported by calling toll free at 1-866-873-2824.

The best way to prevent scrapie is to maintain a flock/herd closed to female additions unless they are genetically resistant or come from certified scrapie-free flocks/herds. Seed stock producers should consider enrolling their own flocks in the SFCP.

Scrapie Headlines

Scrapie Flock Certification Program Standards

In 2009, The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) posted an update to the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) standards.

Page 17 of these standards was updated. To view the update to page 17 of the SFCP standards go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/sfcg_standards_page_17.pdf.

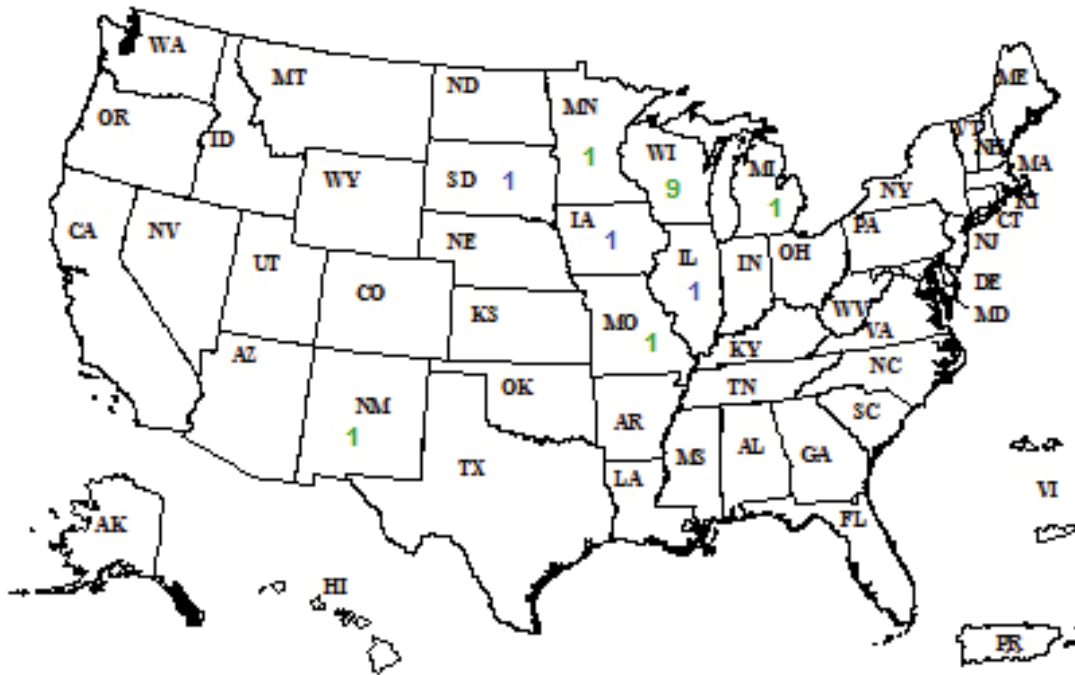
Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing

Sheep and Goats

As of November 30, 2009 (FY 2010)

8,436 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 8,186 RSSS; 209 regulatory field cases; and 41 regulatory live animal biopsies.

Scrapie Confirmed Cases in FY2010

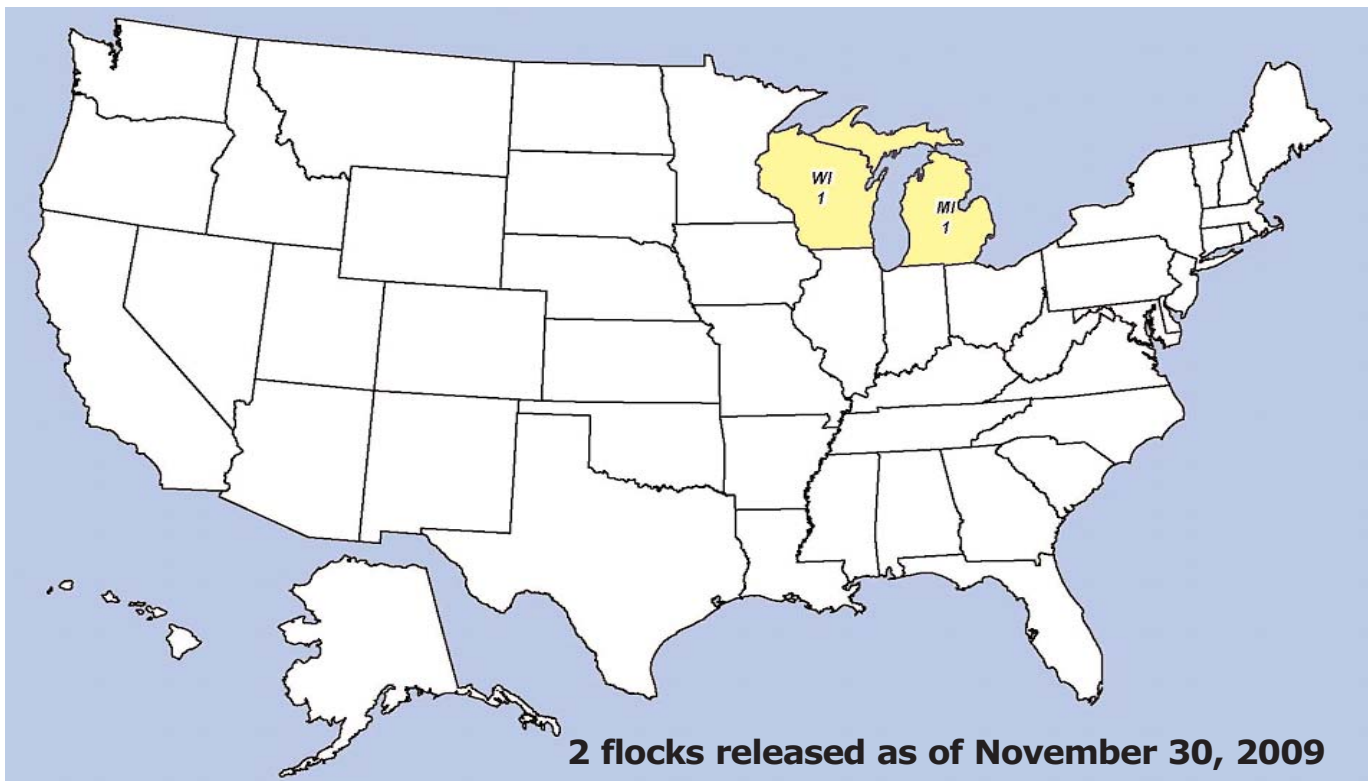


Scrapie cases as of Nov. 30, 2009 = 16
13 field cases;
3 RSSS cases

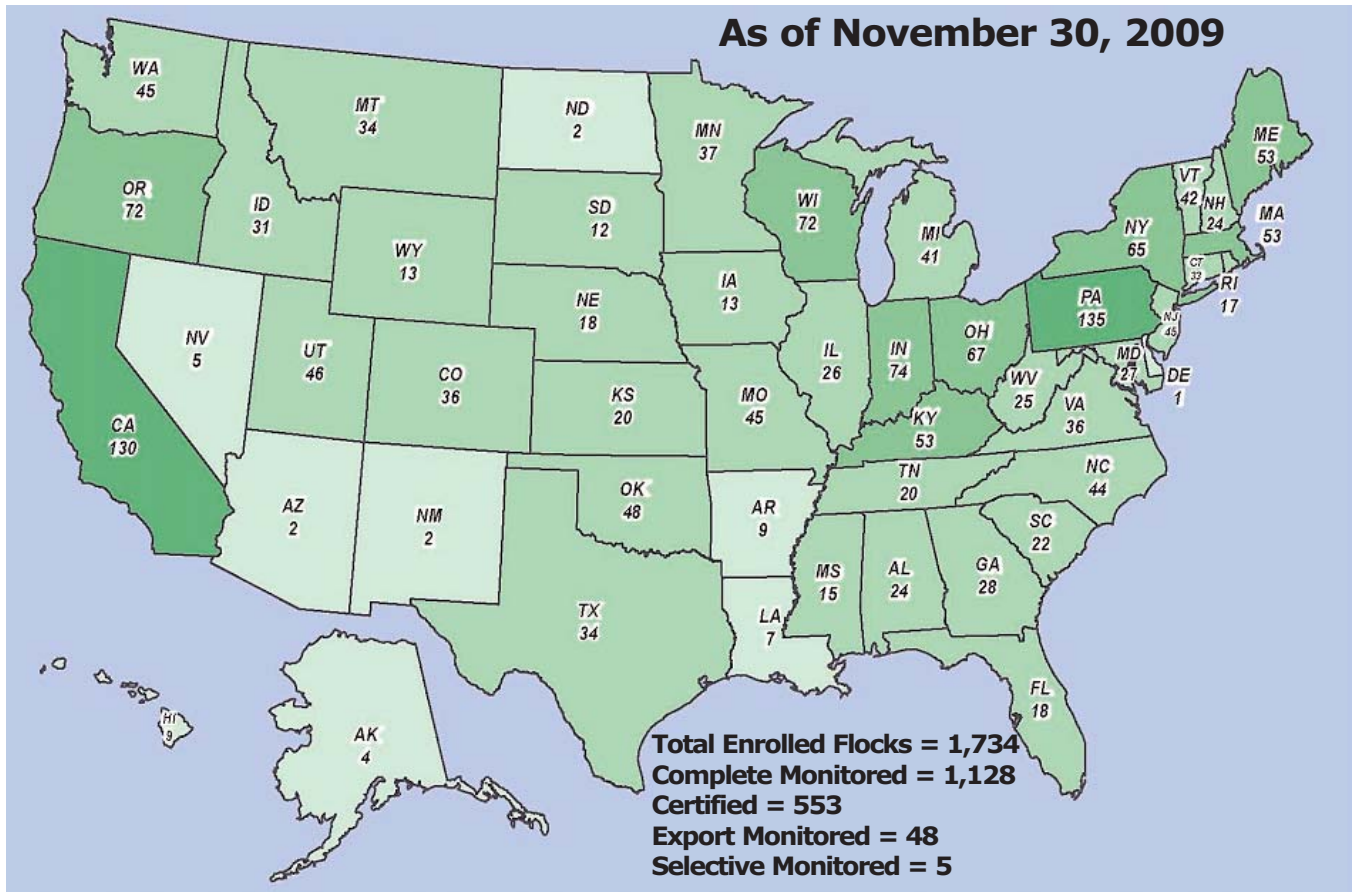
(reported by State of ID tag. Collected in FY09 and reported as of Dec. 18, 2009).

Note: Field cases include animals from infected source flocks, so the state totals often include several animals from the same flock.

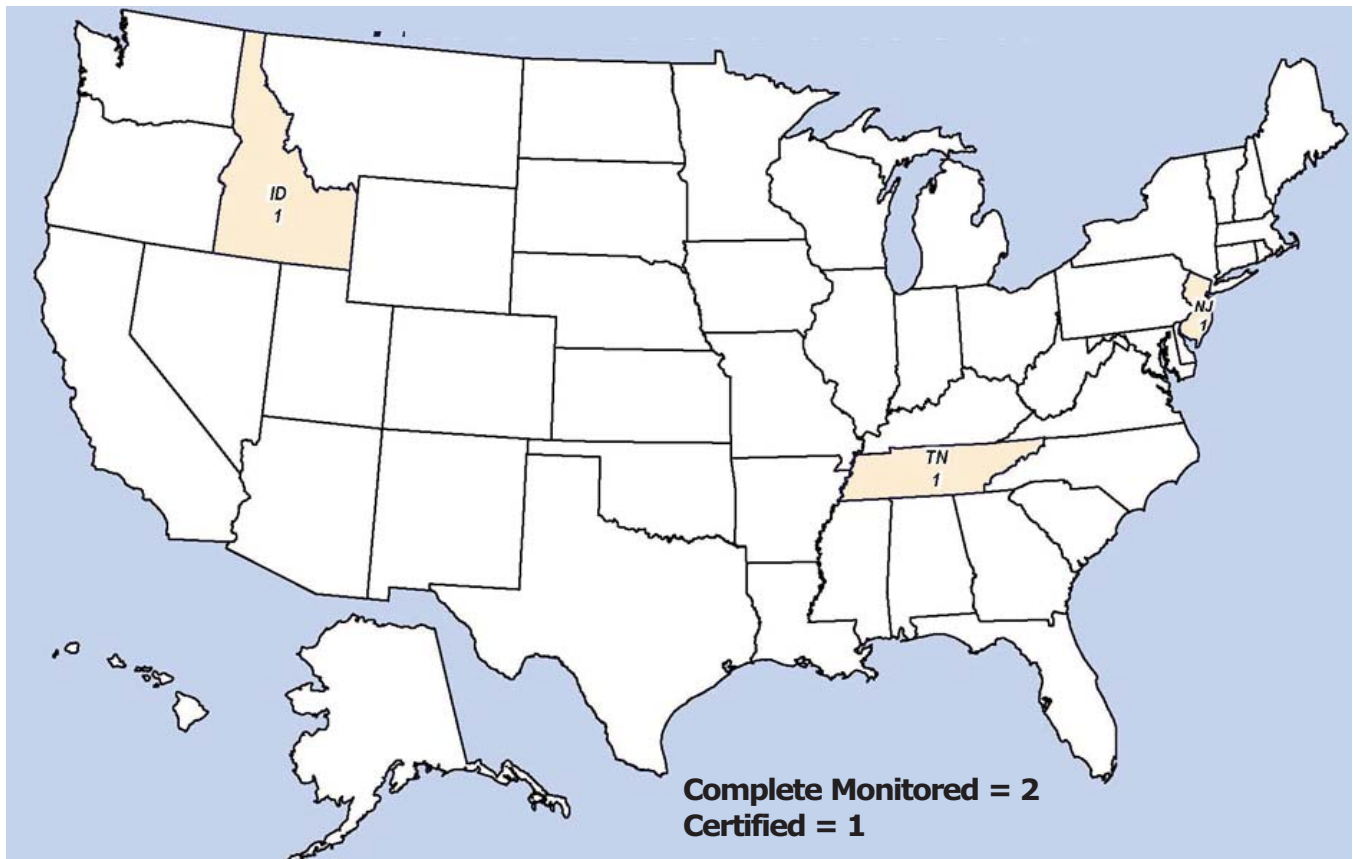
Released Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks FY2010



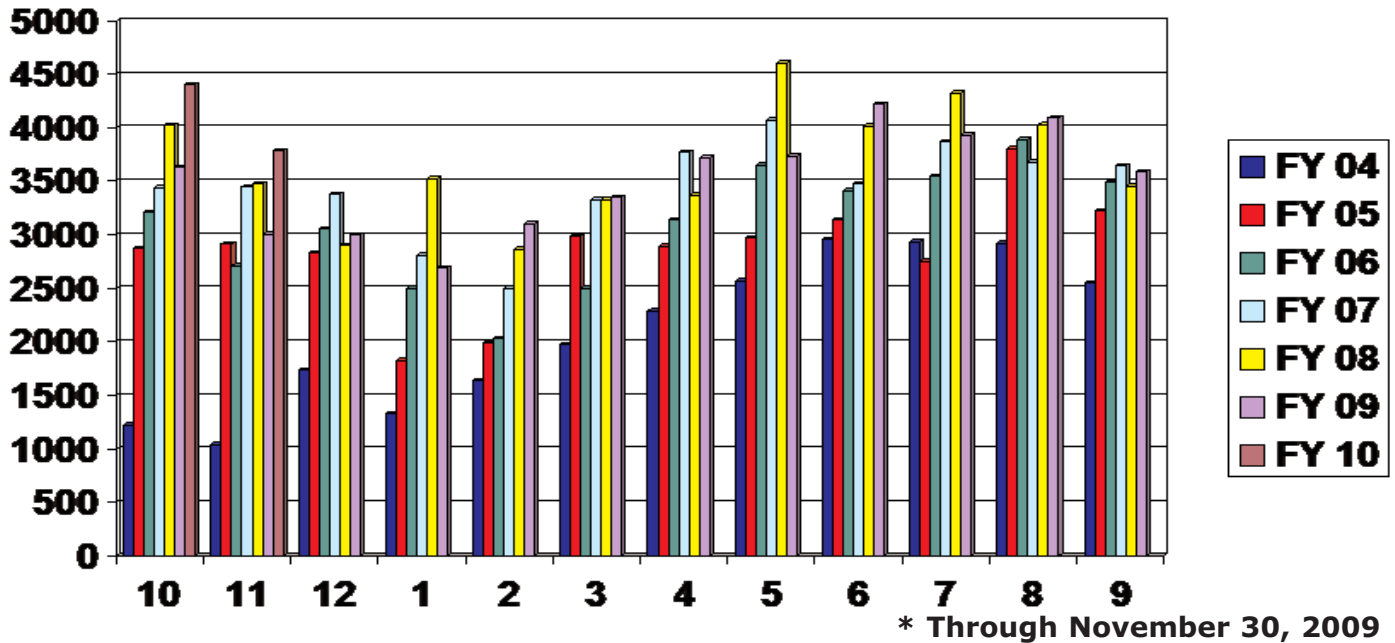
Scrapie Flock Certification Program Participating Flocks



SFCP Flocks Enrolled and Certified in November 2009



Slaughter Surveillance Samples Collected by Month, FY 2004 to FY 2010*



The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's goal is to collect 44,000 slaughter surveillance samples each year from throughout the United States.

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics through November 30, 2009

Since April 1, 2003:	In FY2010:
239,224 samples collected 424 NVSL* confirmed positives	8,186 samples collected 3 NVSL confirmed positives

*National Veterinary Services Laboratories

Web Sites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/scrapie

Maryland Small Ruminant Page
www.sheepandgoat.com/scrapie.html

National Institute of Animal Agriculture
<http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie/Scrapie.htm>

Scrapie QuickPlace

<https://qp01.aphis.usda.gov/QuickPlace/scrapie/Main.nsf?OpenDatabase>
State and federal employees can access this password-protected site by e-mailing
Earl.T.Thorpe@APHIS.USDA.gov to receive a password.



American Sheep Industry Association
www.sheepusa.org