

SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



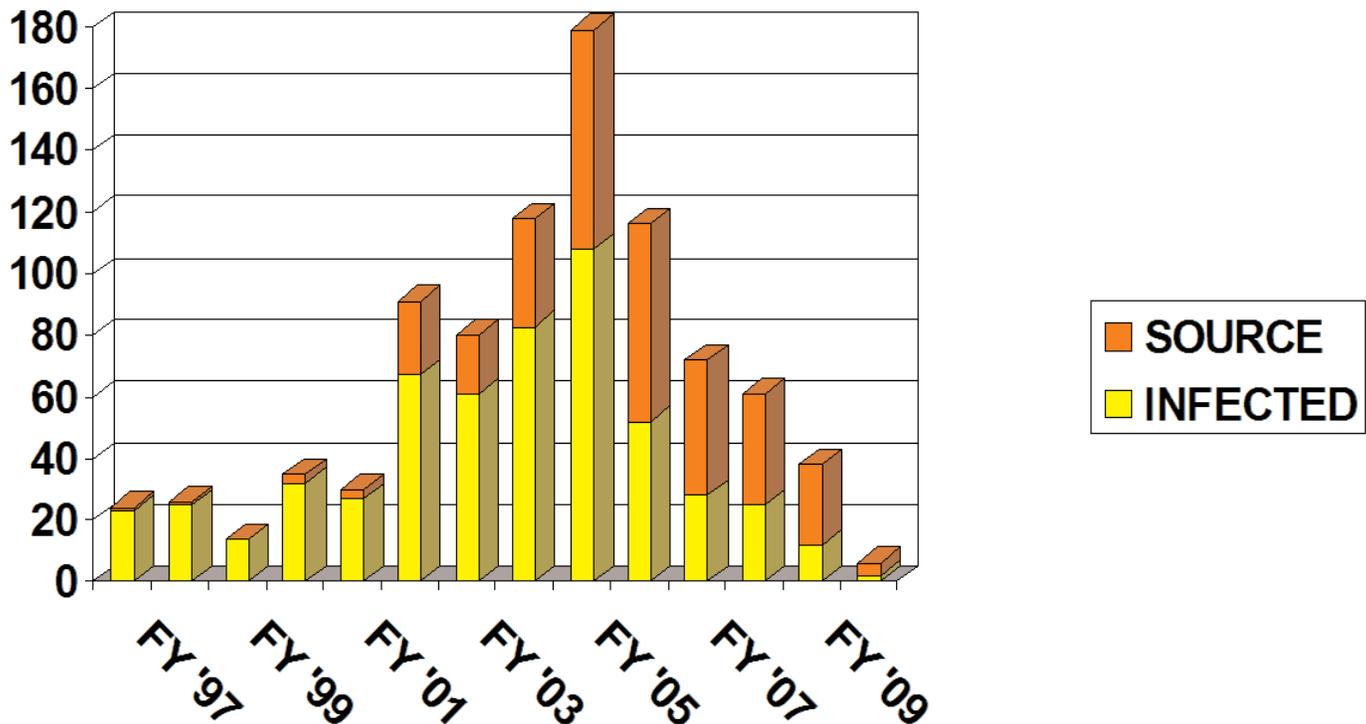
March 2010

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 February 28, 2010

National Scrapie Eradication Program Makes Significant Progress

Diane Sutton, DVM, National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) coordinator, gave a recap of the NSEP to the Production, Research and Education Council at the American Sheep Industry Association's annual convention in January, and significant progress is being made to eradicate the disease.

According to Sutton, the industry has seen an 81-percent decrease in percent positive black-face sheep sampled at slaughter since the start of slaughter surveillance in fiscal year (FY) 2003. There were also 38-percent fewer newly identified infected and source flocks in FY 2009 compared to FY 2008.

"Cases have dropped off dramatically in the last few years," she related.

Goals for the NSEP in 2010 include: completing implementation of the market rule, which adds sheep and goats to market agreements and developing a proposed rule to update the import regulations for

sheep and goats and their products, just to name a few.

In addition, Sutton said that the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has moved to make Nor98-like scrapie no longer a part of its scrapie chapter. USDA supported this change in the OIE chapter and will be proposing changes to its regulations to no longer require the depopulation of Nor98-like exposed sheep or goats. In the interim, as part of a pilot project, USDA will monitor flocks that have Nor98-like scrapie cases rather than depopulating them.

Sutton says that a proposed rule to revise 9 CFR Parts 54 and 79 is on track to be published in FY 2010. This revision, in addition to making changes in how Nor98-like cases are handled, would give the administrator authority to relieve requirements for sheep and goats exposed to scrapie types, such as Nor98-like, that do not pose a significant risk of transmission; make identification and movement requirements for goats similar to those currently in place for sheep; require states to meet reasonable surveillance goals to remain a consistent state; increase the flexibility in how investigations can be conducted and allows the epidemiology in a specific flock to be given more consideration in determining flock and animal status; and adds genetic-based approach to regulation. After the proposed rule is published there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed changes.

"We want to be able to follow epidemiology and common sense," she relates.

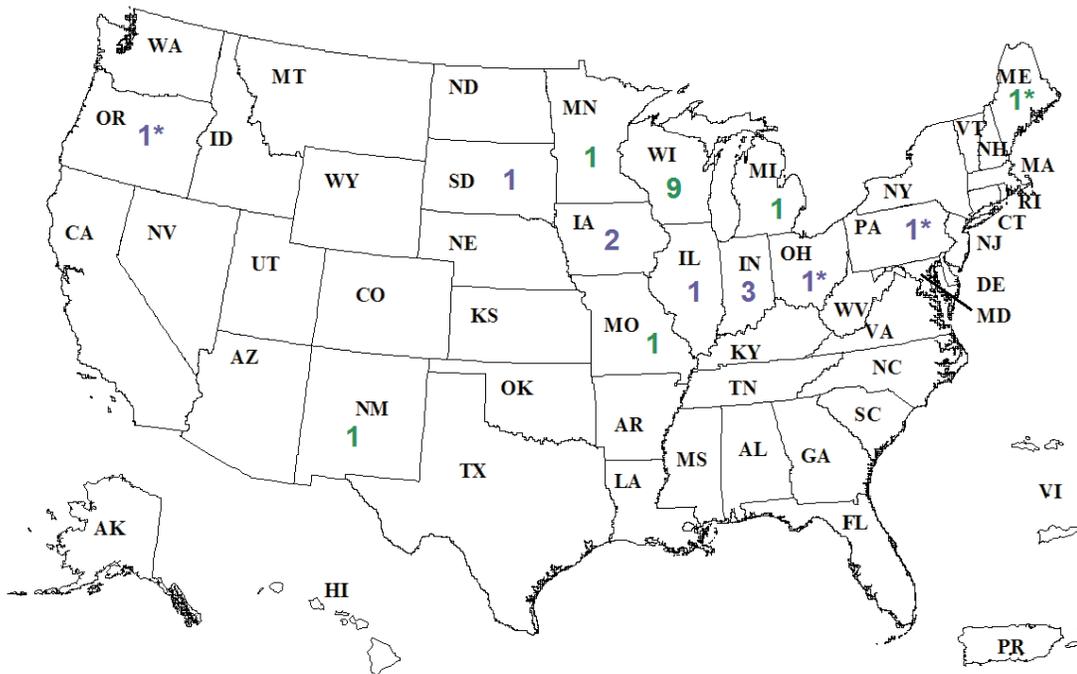
Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing

Sheep and Goats

As of February 28, 2010

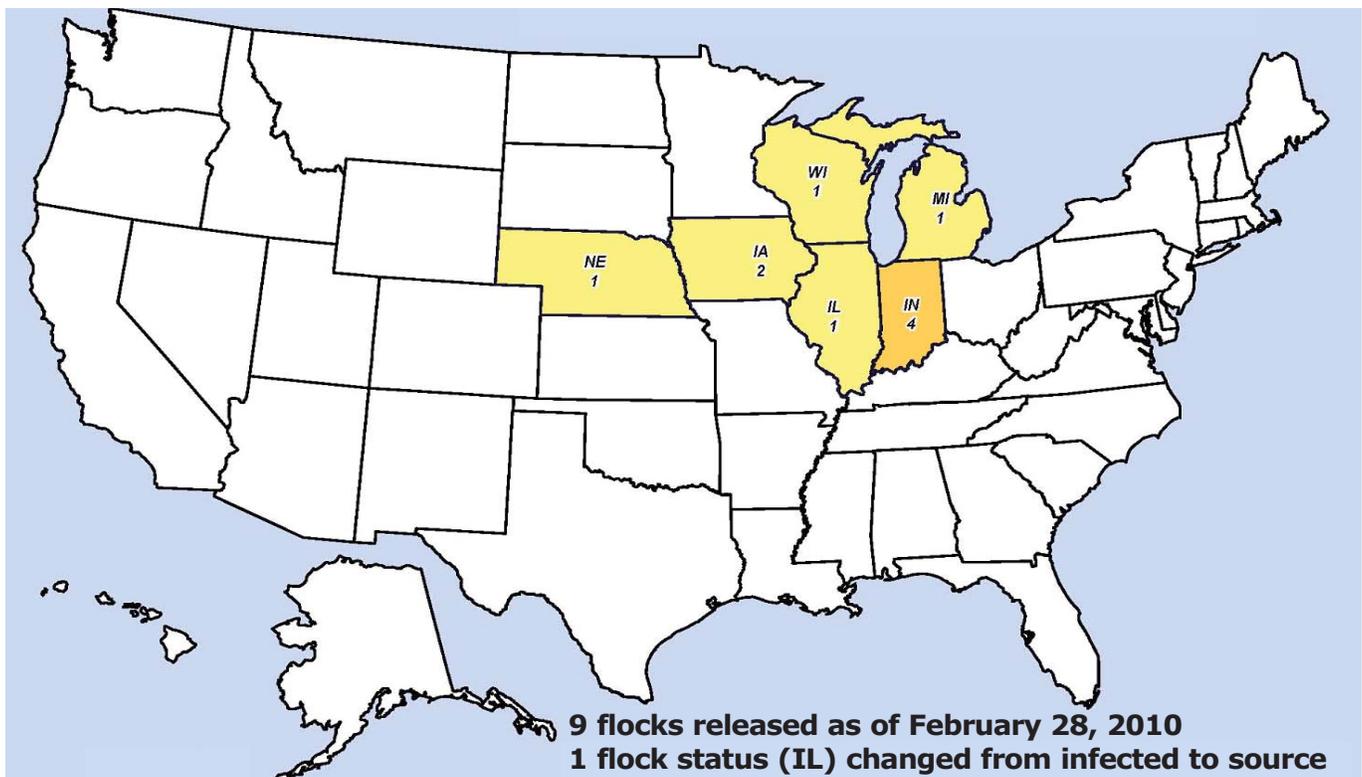
18,974 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 18,321 RSSS; 565 regulatory field cases; and 88 regulatory live animal biopsies.

Scrapie Confirmed Cases in FY 2010



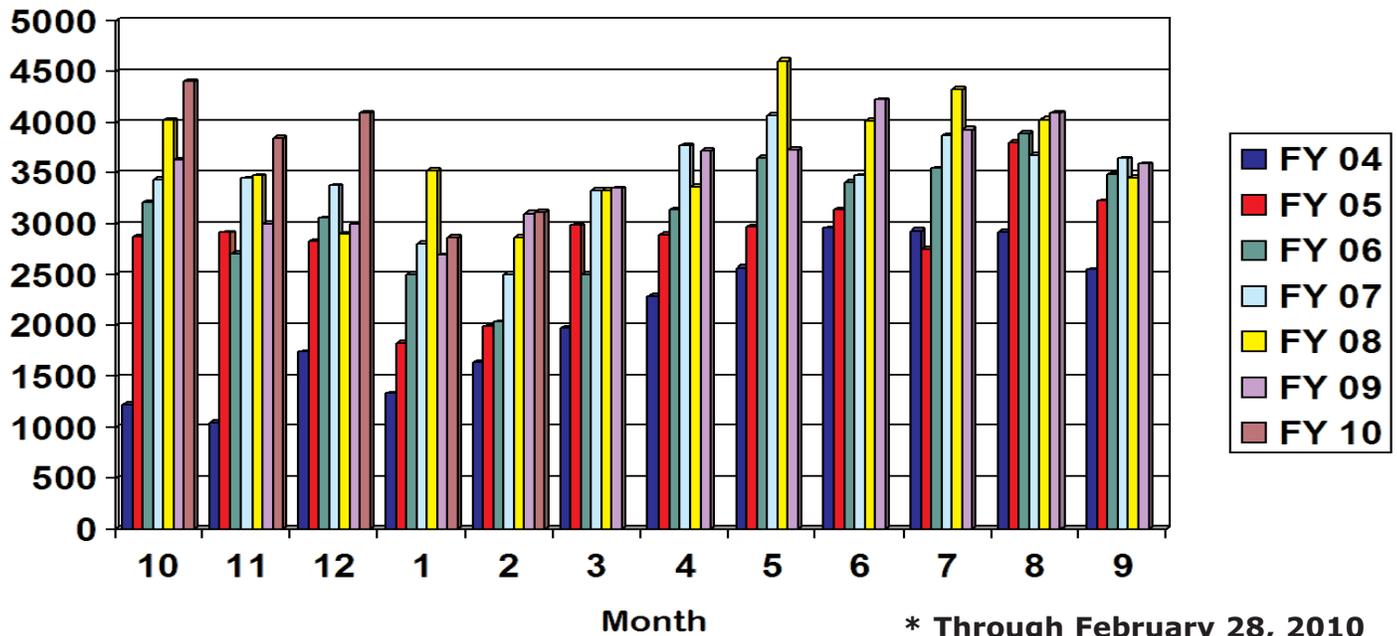
Scrapie cases as of Nov. 28, 2010 = 24
14 field cases;
10 RSSS cases (reported by State of ID tag. Collected in FY09 and reported as of March 15, 2010).
Note: Field cases include animals from infected source flocks, so the state totals often include several animals from the same flock.

Released Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks FY 2010



9 flocks released as of February 28, 2010
1 flock status (IL) changed from infected to source

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



* Through February 28, 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 February 28, 2010

Since April 1, 2003:	In FY2010:
249,590 samples collected 431 NVSL* confirmed positives	18,321 samples collected 7 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