

SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



American Sheep Industry Association

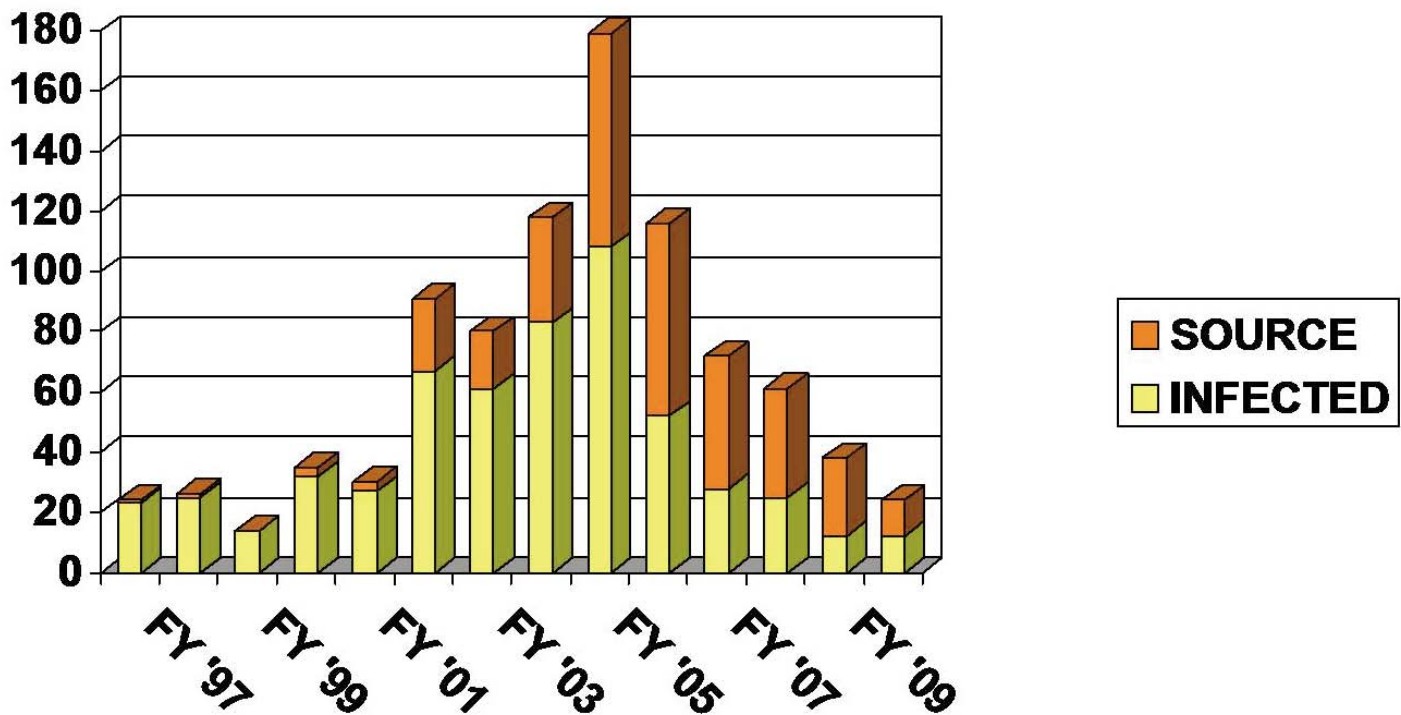
September 2010

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 September 30, 2010

Scrapie Flock Certification Program Revisions to be Discussed

Revisions to the Scrapie Flock Certification Program standards will be discussed at the National Scrapie Oversight Board Meeting at the U.S. Animal Health Association meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 8 a.m. CST.

Sign Encourages Tagging for Scrapie Regulation Compliance

A sign encouraging sheep and goat producers to follow scrapie compliance requirements by ordering free U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) tags is now available in English and Spanish.

The sign prominently displays 1-866-USDA-TAG, the toll-free number to call and order free official

USDA tags and applicators. The sign also notes that official identification of most sheep and goats in commerce is required.

Proper tagging is vital to the success of the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP); it is hoped that this sign will help producers comply with the scrapie program animal identification requirements.

The 18-by-12-inch sign is printed on laminated, weather-resistant stock, so it is ideal for sale barns, terminal markets, exhibition halls and other facilities where sheep and goat producers might bring their livestock, as well as veterinary and extension offices and clinics. The sign is also available for preview at www.eradicatescrapie.org in PDF format. An order form to request your free sign is also available at this web address. Bulk orders can be placed on the Web site or by contacting Scrapie@AnimalAgriculture.org.

These and other materials are part of the National Scrapie Education Initiative conducted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture on behalf of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services, which administers NSEP.

Scrapie Brochure Developed for Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service produced a scrapie brochure to be distributed to sheep producers to help them correctly identify sheep and goats with scrapie tags, protect their herd and flock from the disease, recognize the signs of scrapie and report any possible cases through the proper channels.

Scrapie is a degenerative and eventually fatal brain disease of sheep and goats. It is in the same class of diseases as BSE in cattle and Chronic Wasting Disease in elk and deer. Transmission of the disease occurs primarily from an infected dam to her offspring and other lambs or kids exposed to the birth fluids, placenta or bedding soiled by the birth fluids. Scrapie is estimated to cost the U.S. sheep industry over \$20 million a year and can potentially affect your flock. Through the hard work of producers, allied industries, states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and accredited veterinarians, the prevalence of scrapie in the United States has decreased by 80 percent since 2003.



Recognize the Signs

Scrapie can be a tough disease to diagnose, and it can take several years for an infected sheep or goat to show signs, which include:

- Subtle changes in behavior or temperament;
- Intense frequent rubbing against fixed objects to relieve itching;
- Gait abnormalities such as incoordination, stumbling, high stepping or forelegs, hopping like a rabbit and swaying of the back end;
- Weight loss despite displaying a "normal" appetite;
- Weakness such as difficulty getting up or falling down;
- Biting at feet and legs;
- Lip smacking; or
- Normal behavior at rest, but if stimulated with sudden noises or excessive movement, the animal may tremble or fall down.

After the onset of clinical signs, death occurs within a few weeks to several months.

SCRAPIE
ERADICATION IS IN
SIGHT,
YOU ARE THE KEY TO FINDING THE
LAST CASES!



American Sheep Industry Association



PRODUCERS CAN LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST SCRAPIE

Correctly Identify Sheep and Goats

The Scrapie Eradication Program is a mandatory program which requires sheep and goat producers, dealers, marketers and slaughter plants to officially identify certain sheep and goats. Most sheep and goats must be officially identified prior to selling them or transporting them from their place of birth. Records of tags or other official identification and sale and acquisition records must be kept for five years. Official ear tags and applicators are available free of charge from USDA. To get free official ear tags, call **866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824)**.

The following animals need to be identified:

- Most sheep, except those going to slaughter as lambs, need to have an official ear tag or other official identification when they leave the farm or change ownership.
- Sexually intact goats before being transported to a show, fair, petting zoo or exhibition (many shows require all goats to be tagged).
- Registered goats, goats used for milk production and any goat housed or pastured with sheep must be officially identified before a change of ownership (many states require official identification for other types of goats).

All states require certain sheep and goats to be officially identified on change of ownership. Some states require all sheep and goats to be officially identified for interstate movement, and some states exempt certain classes of sheep and/or goats. It is the producer's responsibility to know and adhere to state requirements for your respective state and, if moving out of state, to know and adhere to the federal requirements and those of the states to where animals are being moved.

Learn more about national and specific state's scrapie identification requirements at www.eradicatescrapie.org.

Protect Your Flock or Herd

- There are several precautions that producers can take to minimize the risk of getting scrapie in their flock or herd.
- Close the flock or herd to female additions. Scrapie is transmitted primarily by females during lambing, so keeping the disease out of the ewes and does is essential.
 - Genetic resistance: An RR ram has a high genetic resistance to scrapie and will make all his offspring resistant or less susceptible to scrapie.
 - Lambing/kidding management: Remove placentas and bedding soiled by birth fluids from birthing areas right away and thoroughly clean the birthing area between lambings.
 - Flock/herd additions: Purchase ewes that have been tested at an official genotyping laboratory and have the AAQR or RR genotype or buy sheep and goats from flocks that have reached the certified level of the National Scrapie Flock Certification Program and quarantine all new animals that are brought into the flock to observe for any signs of scrapie.



Kelly Gornham

Report Suspect Sheep and Goats

If any signs of scrapie are noticed in a sheep or goat over 18 months of age that continue for several weeks or if a mature sheep or goat dies after showing some signs, it is important for you or your veterinarian to report it to your state veterinarian or to USDA's Veterinary Services. USDA's toll free telephone number is **866-873-2824**. Your state or USDA animal health official will determine if the animal should be further examined and possibly tested for scrapie (at no cost to you the producer). Scrapie testing can be done on tissue collected from a living or dead sheep or goat. If the animal is determined to be a scrapie suspect, USDA will offer to purchase the animal.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SCRAPIE

Fact sheets, brochures, news releases and video clips of scrapie-infected sheep and goats are located at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/
http://sheepindustrynews.org/scrapie_guide

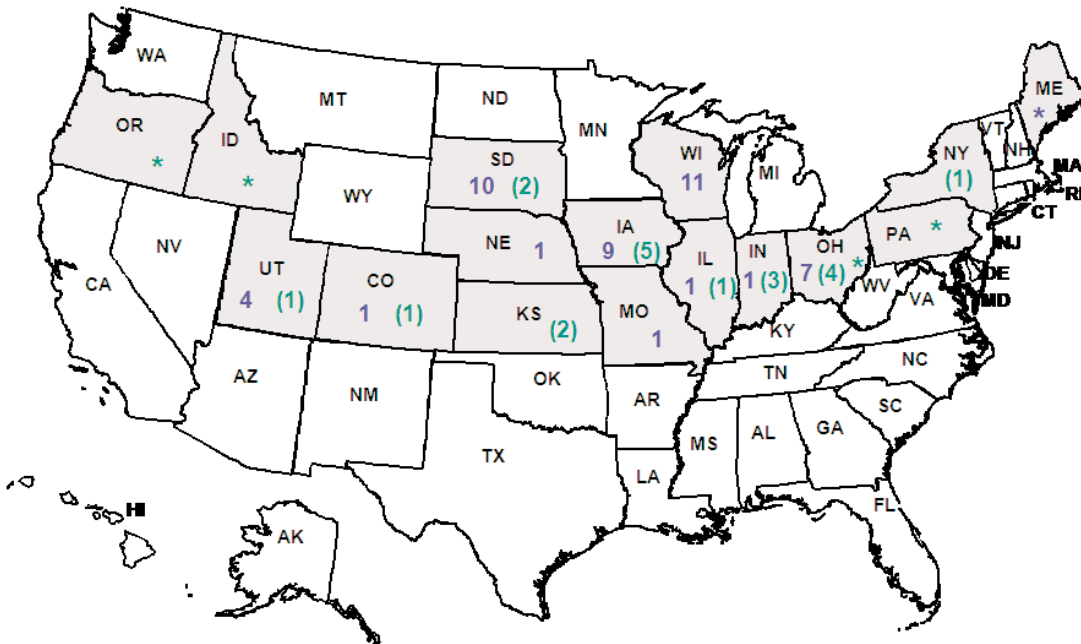
Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing

Sheep and Goats

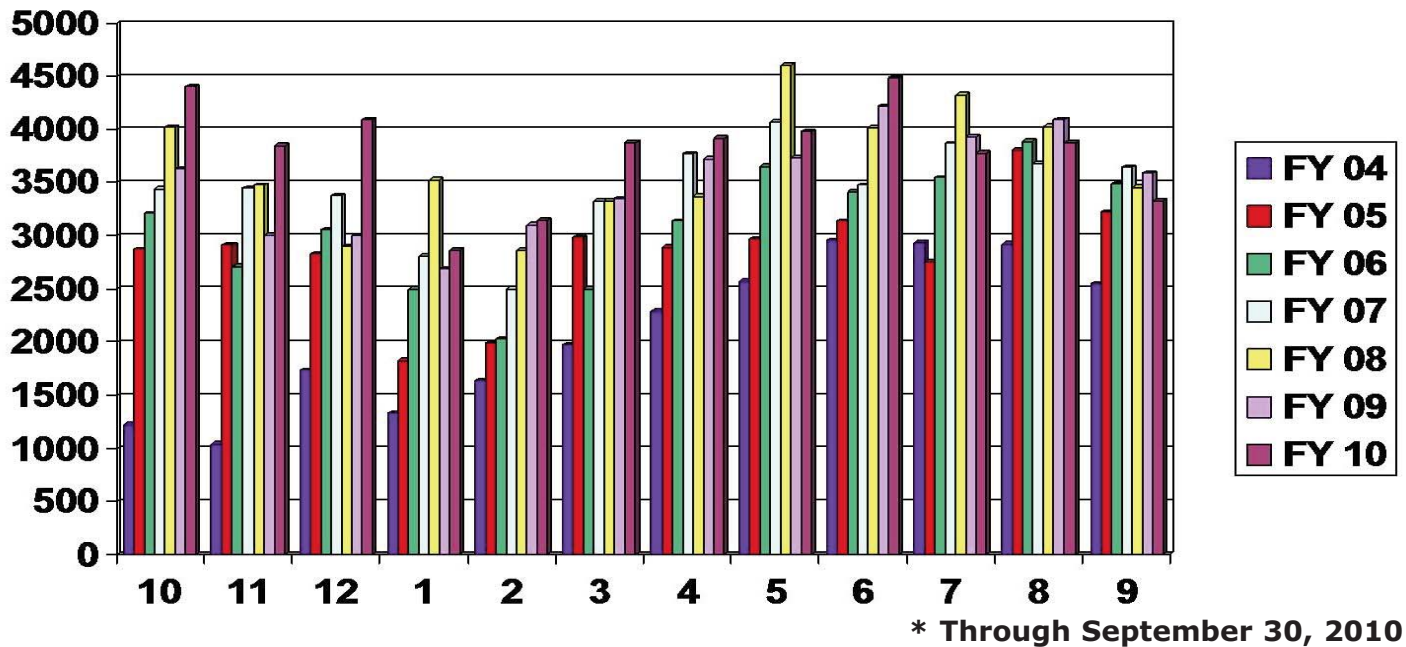
As of September 30, 2010

47,584 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 45,589 RSSS; 1,716 regulatory field cases; and 279 regulatory live animal biopsies.

Scrapie Confirmed Cases in FY 2010



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 September 30, 2010

Since April 1, 2003:	In FY2010:
276,858 samples collected 445 NVSL* confirmed positives	45,589 samples collected 20 NVSL confirmed positives (classical); 4 (Nor98-like)

*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.



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