

# SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



American Sheep  
Industry Association

June 2017

The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association and the U.S. sheep industry is to eradicate scrapie from our borders. In addition, it is the objective to have the United States recognized as scrapie free in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health. 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 [kyle@sheepusa.org](mailto:kyle@sheepusa.org).

## Scrapie Submissions Needed

The good news for American sheep producers is that the industry has scrapie on the run. The bad news is that the current status makes carriers of the fatal disease more difficult to find.

“The incidence rate is now very low and finding the few remaining cases becomes more difficult using traditional surveillance methods,” said Wyoming State Veterinarian Jim Logan, DVM. “The best and most appropriate method now is within flock surveillance. It is in the best interest of the industry that we sample as many adult dead sheep and goats that we can find and get them tested.”

The only diagnostic tests currently available to determine if a sheep has scrapie require brain or lymphoid tissue. Scrapie is typically diagnosed by finding abnormal prion protein accumulation in the brain and/or lymphoid tissue of infected sheep. A positive test must be confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

While no new cases of classical scrapie have been reported in the United States since April 2016, there's still a need to be vigilant.

“If producers take this on in a serious manner and get heads to the laboratory, it will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture prove to the international community that the United States is free of scrapie, and we will finally be able to wrap up this national eradication program,” Logan said.

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Infected flocks can experience significant production losses. Scrapie is the oldest known TSE, and under natural conditions only sheep and goats are known to be affected by scrapie. Once infected, the animal remains infected for life and eventually dies from the disease typically at between 3 and 5 years of age.

The best way for producers to assist in completely eradicating scrapie from American borders is to participate in APHIS' sample submission program. The program is provided at no cost to the producer, and asks that producers submit samples from sheep or goats 18 months of age or older.

“Most producers don't see scrapie as an issue in their flock,” said Diane Sutton, USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services Sheep and Goat Health Team Leader. “We're so close to being free of scrapie, but we need to be able to demonstrate that to the world. Slaughter surveillance alone won't get the job done.”

The process for submitting samples is fairly simple and outlined in the graphic below. Shipping boxes with packing supplies and shipping are provided at no cost by APHIS. For more information, visit [Sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms\\_AnimalHealth\\_Scrapie](http://Sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_AnimalHealth_Scrapie).

### Submitting Mature Heads

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 field office for your state. State contact information is available at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/sprs\\_contact/field\\_office\\_contact\\_info.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/sprs_contact/field_office_contact_info.pdf). VS field offices can also be reached through the toll free number, 866-873-2824.

#### Free ID For Producers

*The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides scrapie program official ID free of charge to producers (call 866-USDA-TAG to get tags), testing of exposed flocks and indemnity for infected flocks. Contact your state or local VS office for more information.*

*To view the National Scrapie Eradication Program current Monthly Report, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Veterinary Services, go to [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly\\_scrapie\\_report.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly_scrapie_report.pdf)*

## Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing Sheep and Goats

**In Fiscal Year 2017, as of April 30, 2017**

22,067 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 20,850 RSSS and 1,217 on-farm samples  
18,274 sheep and 3,793 goats.  
0 sheep and 0 goats have tested positive

## Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

**Since April 1, 2003**

541,354 samples collected  
480 NVSL\* confirmed positives

\*National Veterinary Services Laboratories

**In FY 2017 (as of April 30, 2017)**

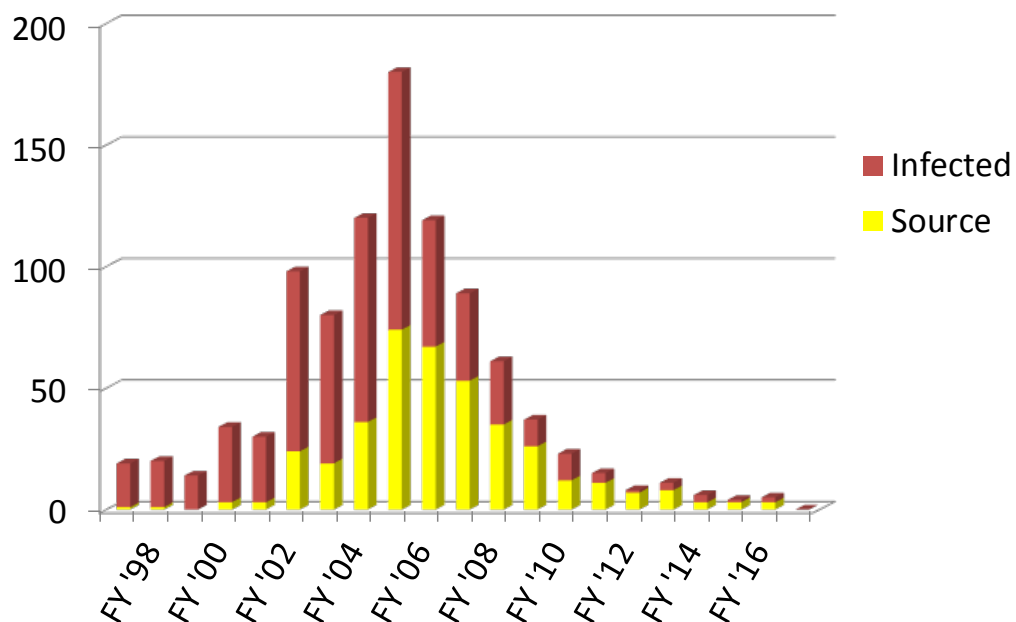
20,850 samples collected (3,377 from goats)  
0 NVSL confirmed positive

## On-Farm Surveillance

**In Fiscal Year 2017, as of April 30, 2017**

1,217 animals have been tested on farm – 801 sheep and 416 goats

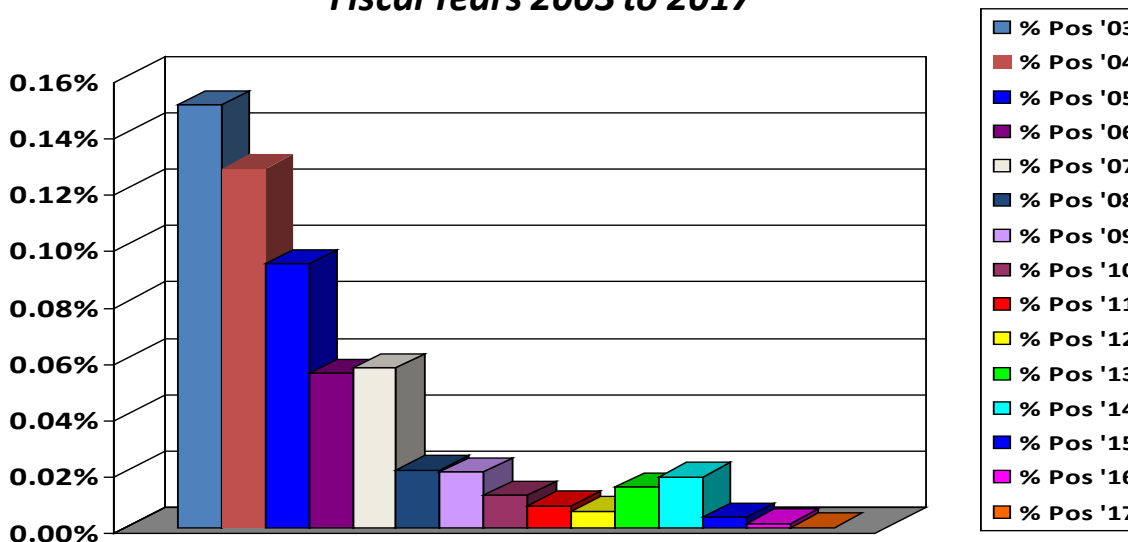
## Infected and Source Flocks New Statuses by Year - *Fiscal Years 1997 to 2017\**



\* As of April 30, 2017

# Percent of RSSS Sheep Samples that Tested Positive for Classical Scrapie - Weighted by Face Color

*Fiscal Years 2003 to 2017\**

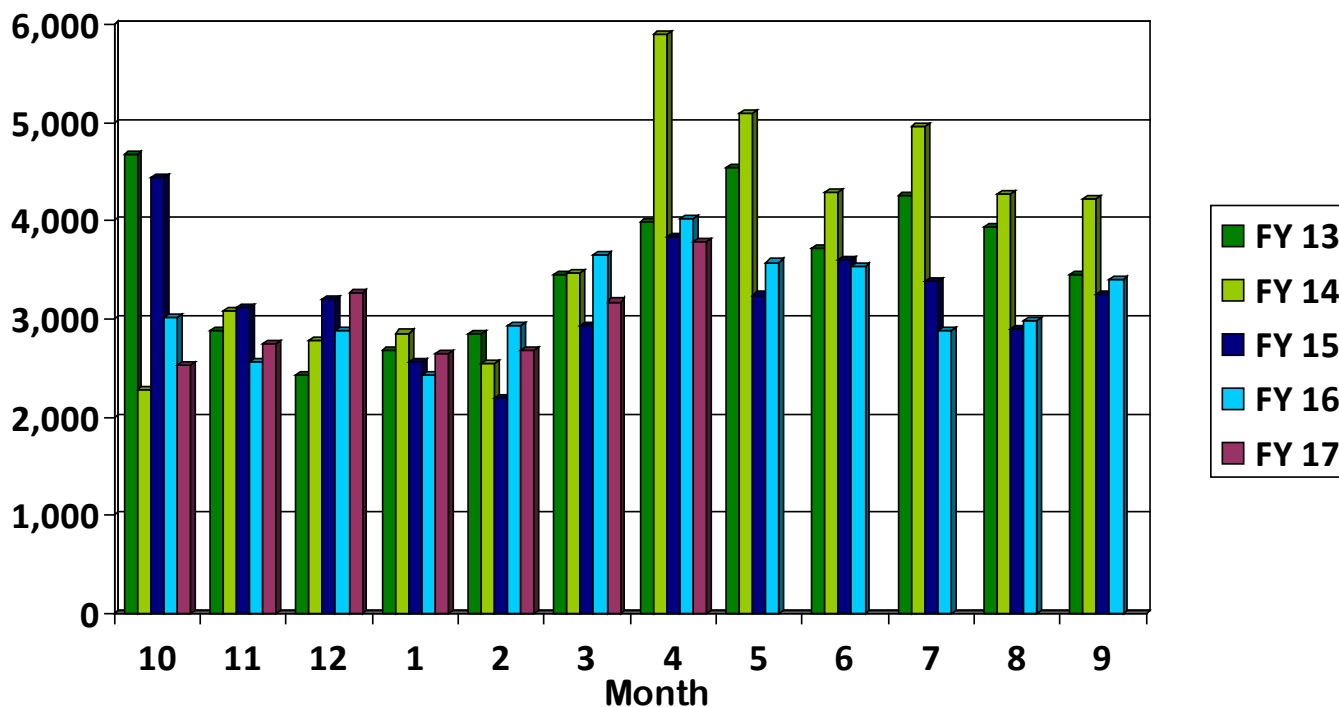


\* As of April 30, 2017. Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from the same flock. Does not include Nor98-like scrapie cases found through RSSS (2 in FY 2007, 1 in FY 2008, 4 in FY 2010, 1 in FY 2011, and 1 in FY 2016).

# Slaughter Surveillance Samples Collected by Month

*Fiscal Years 2012 to 2017*

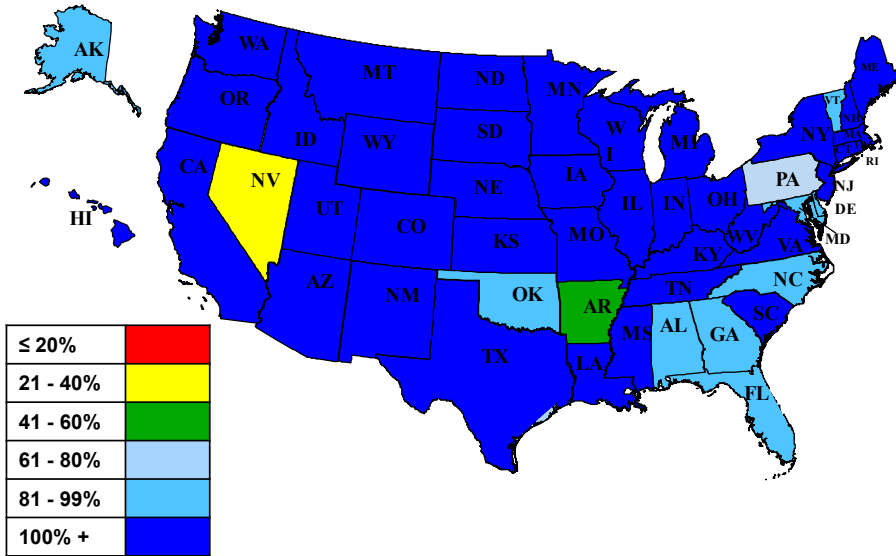
*As of April 30, 2017*



## State Sampling Minimums

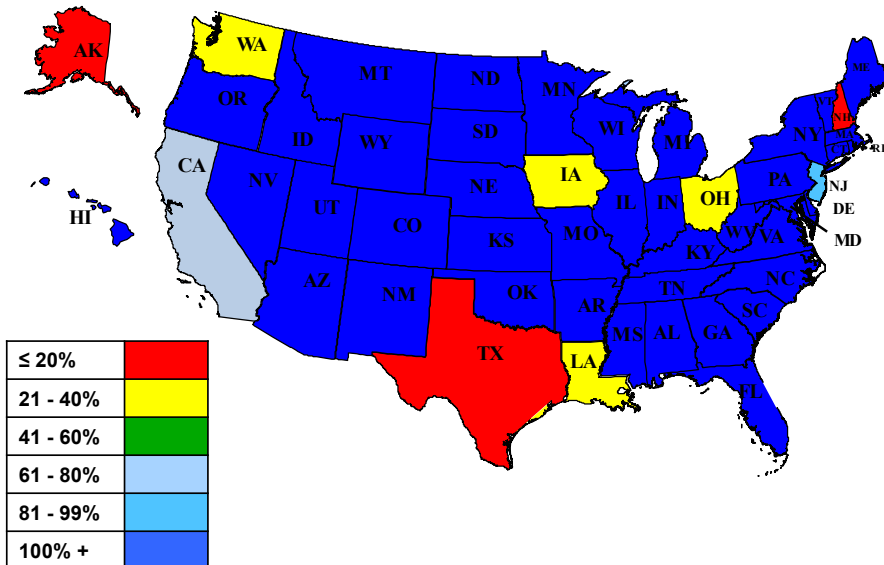
The National Scrapie Eradication Program establishes annual sheep and goat sampling minimums for each state, and tracks the states' level of compliance with meeting these minimums. These state minimums help ensure adequate geographical representation, so that APHIS can find the last remaining cases and document freedom from scrapie. State sampling minimums are established based on the population demographics of mature sheep in each state. The calculations used to derive the sampling minimums are described in the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan. Progress toward meeting these minimums in FY 2017 is shown in the following two slides.

### Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2017—RSSS and On-farm Surveillance—Sheep\*



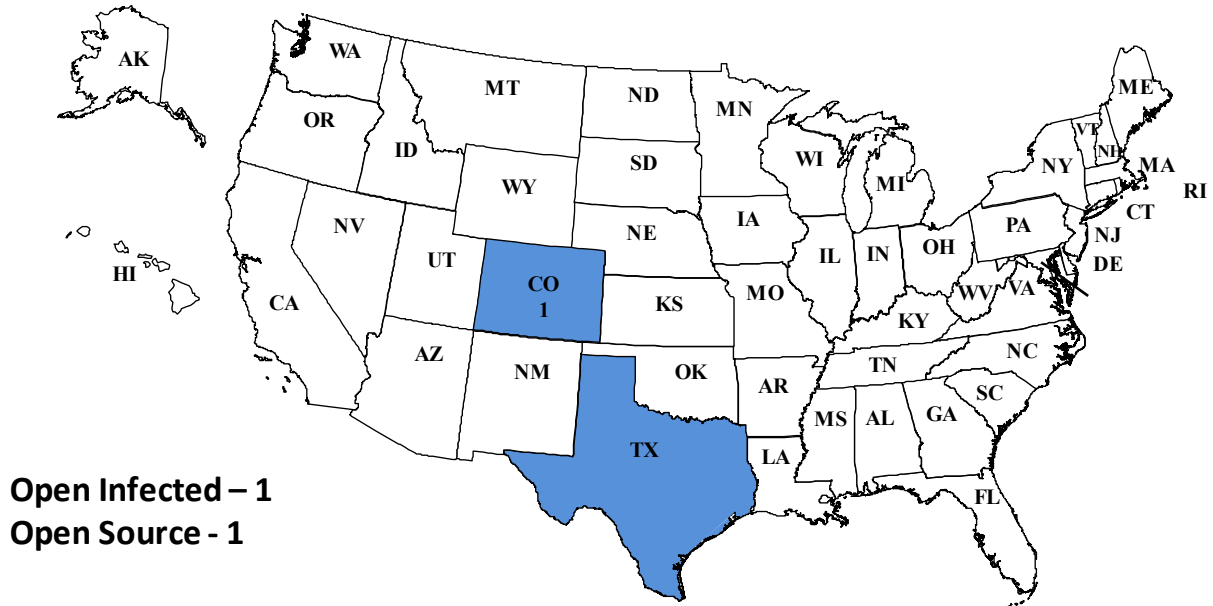
\* As of April 30, 2017. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 0.53% of the annual sampling minimum.

### Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2017—RSSS and On-farm Surveillance—Goats\*

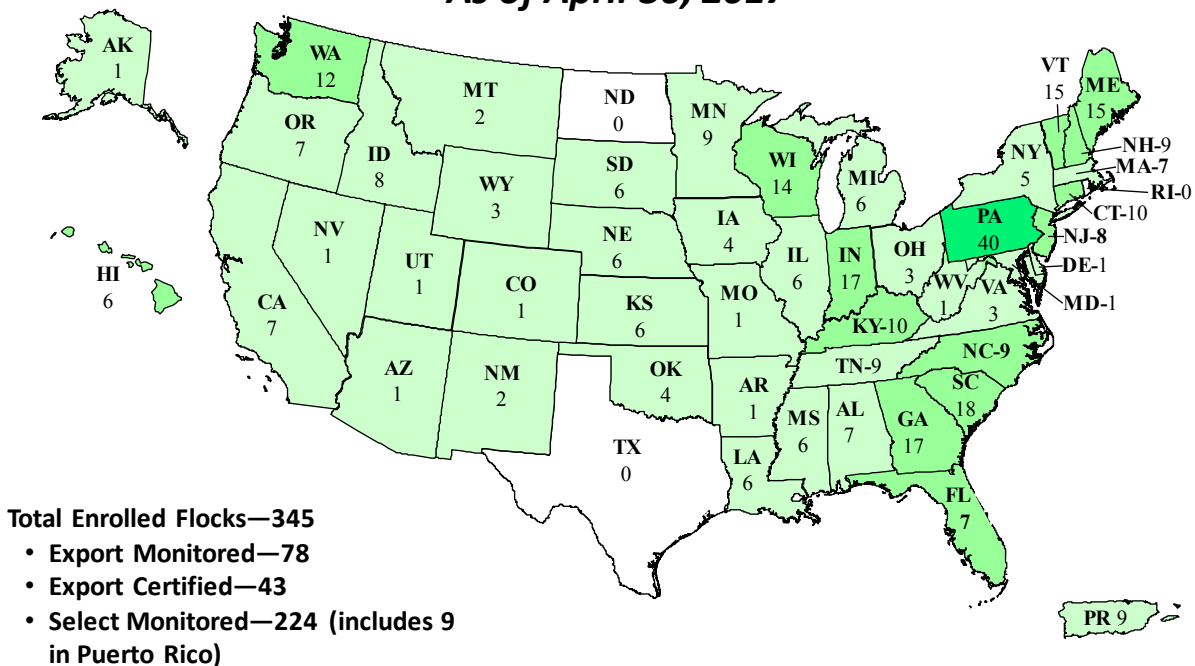


\* As of April 30, 2017. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 0.57% of the annual sampling minimum. AK and RI have a sampling minimum of 1 and DE has a sampling minimum of 2. IA and MD had a large increase in their minimums due to finding an infected herd in each State in FY 2014.

# Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks Open Statuses - As of April 30, 2017



## Scrapie Flock Certification Program: Participating Flocks As of April 30, 2017



### Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>

Maryland Small Ruminant Page: <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/updatescrapie>

National Institute of Animal Agriculture: <http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/>

Scrapie SharePoint: <https://share.aphis.usda.gov/sites/vs-sgh/>

(Federal and State employees can access this password-protected site by emailing [Diane.L.Sutton@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Diane.L.Sutton@aphis.usda.gov) if you need assistance.)

