

SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



American Sheep
Industry Association

March 2016

The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association 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. 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.

Indiana: Ready for Anything

BY CHERYL MILLER, DVM

As regulatory veterinarians, we would prefer to deal with herd/flock health challenges one at a time. Unfortunately, that is not what usually occurs, as we experienced earlier this year, here in Indiana.

In the midst of investigating bovine tuberculosis, exposed dairy cattle moved into a large dairy and responding to an outbreak of avian influenza involving 10 sites, I received notice of our first scrapie positive flock in Indiana since 2012. I'm sure we all had that "deer in the headlights" look as we feared what was ahead of us.

The scrapie-positive flock owner was informed of the test results and his flock was quarantined. The original positive ewe was a 3-year-old that was confirmed as AAQQ by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Fortunately, the producer was very cooperative and wanted to get his flock "cleaned up" as soon as possible. The flock was a black-faced, club-lamb flock consisting of approximately 170 adult sheep.

They were in the middle of lambing and still had several ewes to lamb. We codon tested 166 ewes, seven rams, and 69 sexually intact lambs. Out of this group, we identified 19 QQ sheep, including a pregnant daughter of the original positive ewe. This ewe was

removed from the flock prior to lambing, and was diagnosed as scrapie positive. Seventeen additional QQs were removed and one additional positive was identified (One of the 19 QQs was a ram lamb which the owner castrated). Cleaning and disinfecting has been completed and verified. The lambs born after the initial round of genotyping are currently being genotyped, once the testing is completed we will remove any remaining QQ ewe lambs.

Fortunately, the Indiana Board of Animal Health did not have many traces. Illinois, Iowa and Michigan each received one ewe lamb trace. Ohio received three ewe lambs. Indiana had one ewe lamb trace to another producer which was confirmed as QR. Cull ewes and some lambs were sold through a local sale barn and live-stock dealers. BOAH is still working on these traces.

As both a field veterinarian and the designated scrapie epidemiologist for Indiana, I was actively involved in all three events. Fortunately, no additional positive sites were found for avian influenza. I am very thankful that my co-workers were willing to jump in and work until the job was done and the producers were very cooperative also. Hopefully, Indiana will not face a triple threat again anytime soon.

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/area_offices (select contact us from the side bar). 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

Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing

Sheep and Goats

In Fiscal Year 2016, as of Feb. 29, 2016

14,434 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 13,768 RSSS and 666 on-farm samples
11,268 sheep and 3,166 goats.
12 sheep and 0 goats have tested positive

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

Since April 1, 2003

496,370 samples collected

479 NVSL* confirmed positives

*National Veterinary Services Laboratories

In FY 2016 (as of Feb. 29, 2016)

13,768 samples collected (2,919 from goats)

1 NVSL confirmed positives

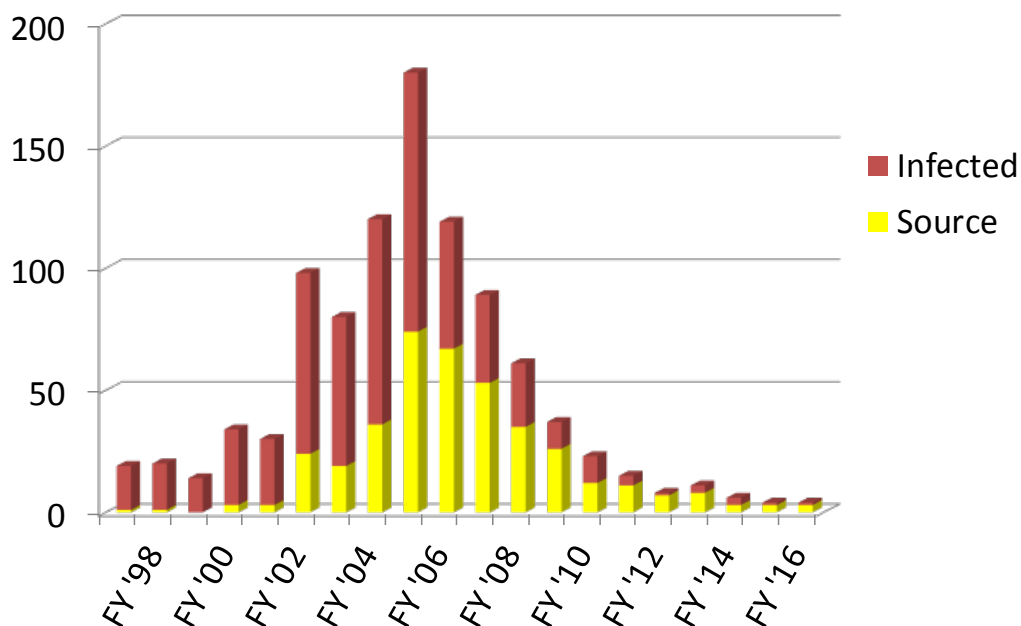
On-Farm Surveillance

In Fiscal Year 2016, as of Feb. 29, 2016

666 animals have been tested on farm – 419 sheep and 247 goats

Infected and Source Flocks

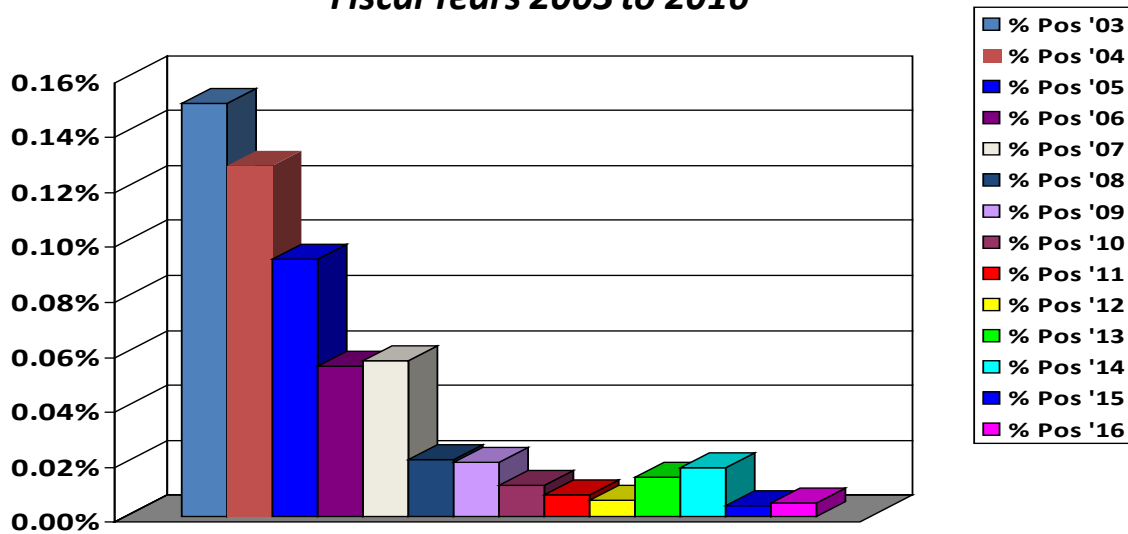
New Statuses by Year - Fiscal Years 1997 to 2016*



* As of February 29, 2016.

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

*Fiscal Years 2003 to 2016**

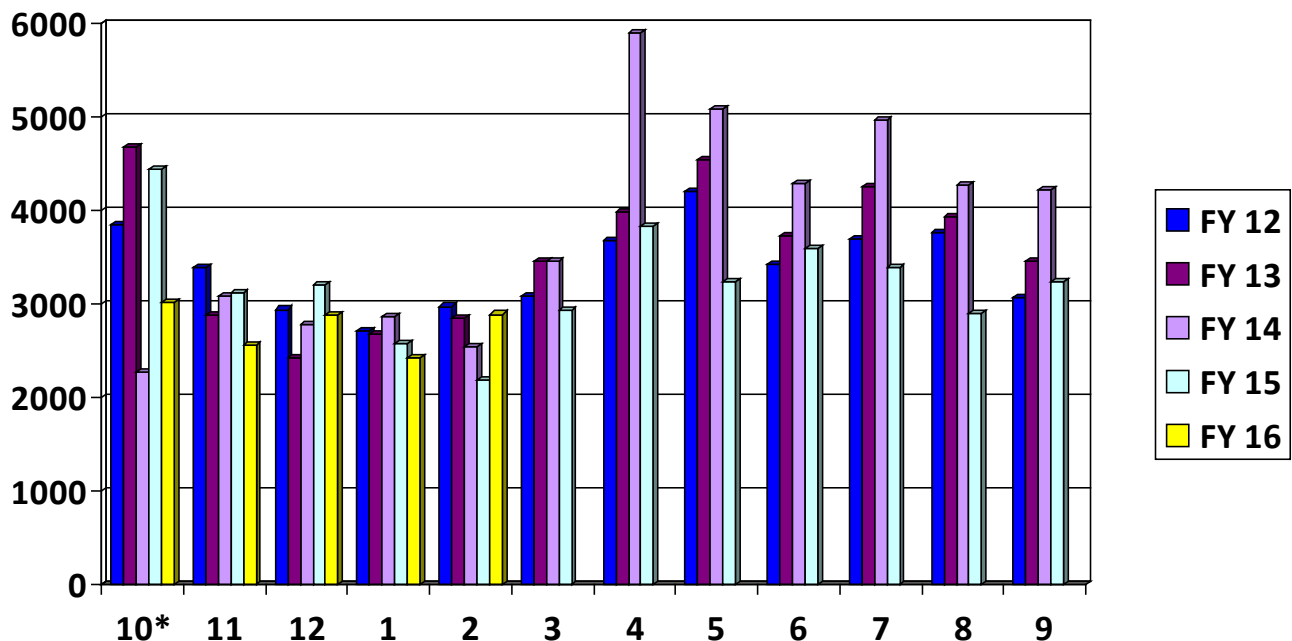


* As of February 29, 2016. Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from the same flock. Does not include Nor98-like scrapie cases found through RSSS (2 in FY 2007, 1 in FY 2008, 4 in FY 2010, 1 in FY 2011).

Slaughter Surveillance Samples Collected by Month

Fiscal Years 2012 to 2016

As of February 29, 2016



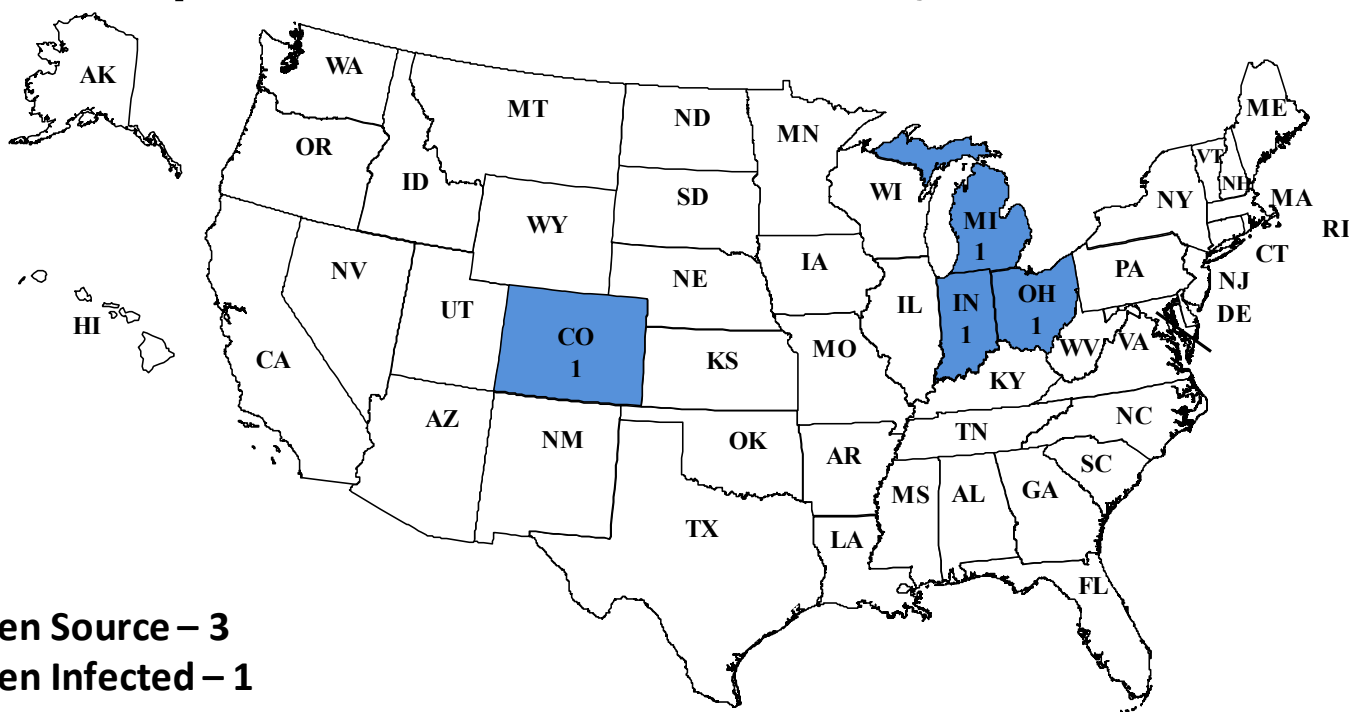
Note: Surveillance numbers were significantly lower October 2013 compared to October in prior FYs because the furlough reduced the number of collection days.

FY 2016 Scrapie Confirmed Cases by State

As of February 29, 2016

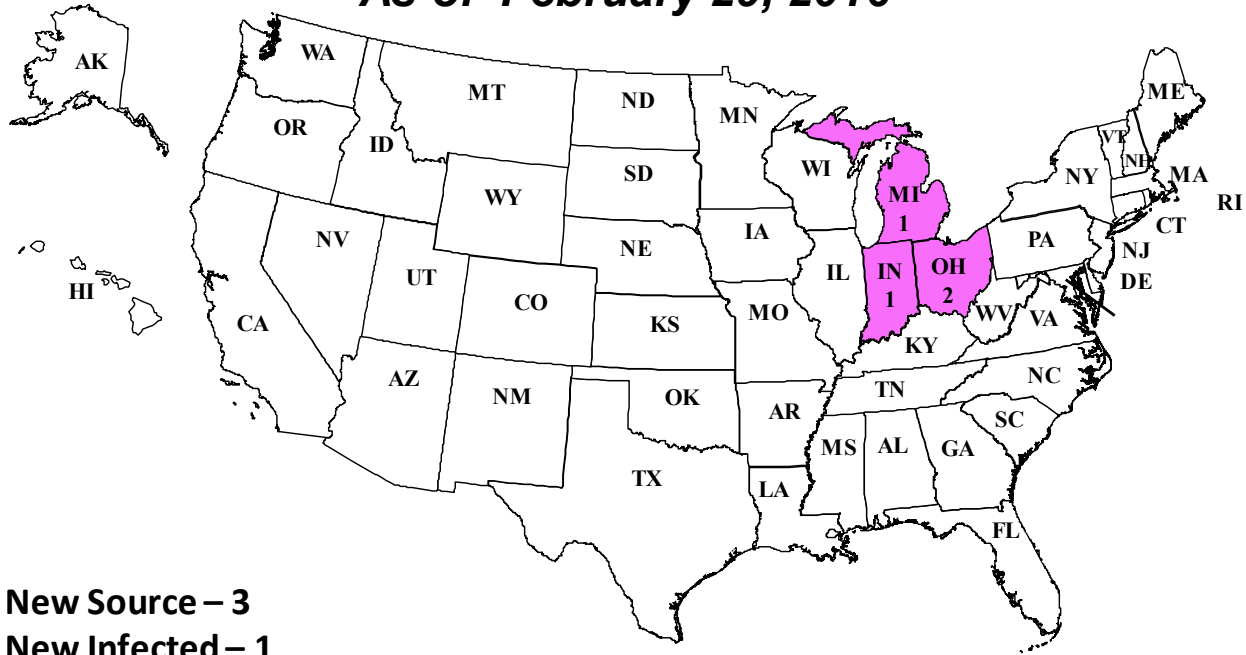
State	Sheep		Goats	
	RSSS	On-Farm	RSSS	On-Farm
IN	1	2	0	0
MI	0	1	0	0
OH	0	8	0	0
Total All States	1	11	0	0

Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks Open Statuses - As of February 29, 2016



New Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks - FY 2016

As of February 29, 2016

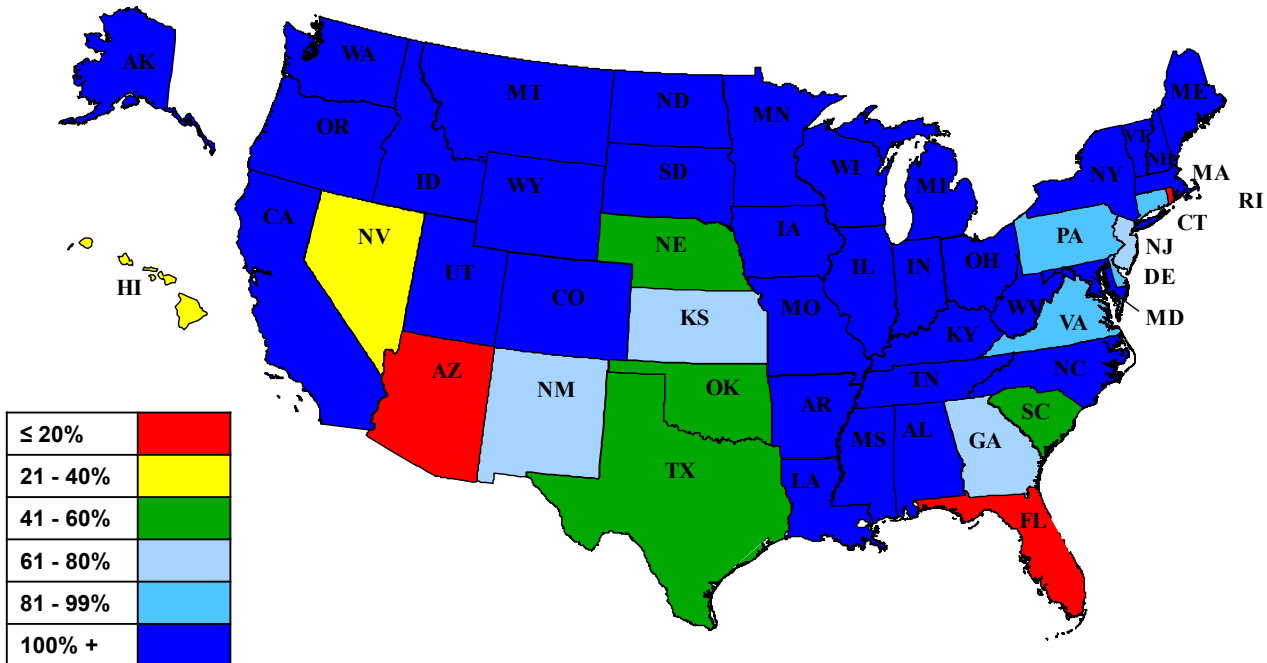


New Source – 3
New Infected – 1

State Sampling Minimums

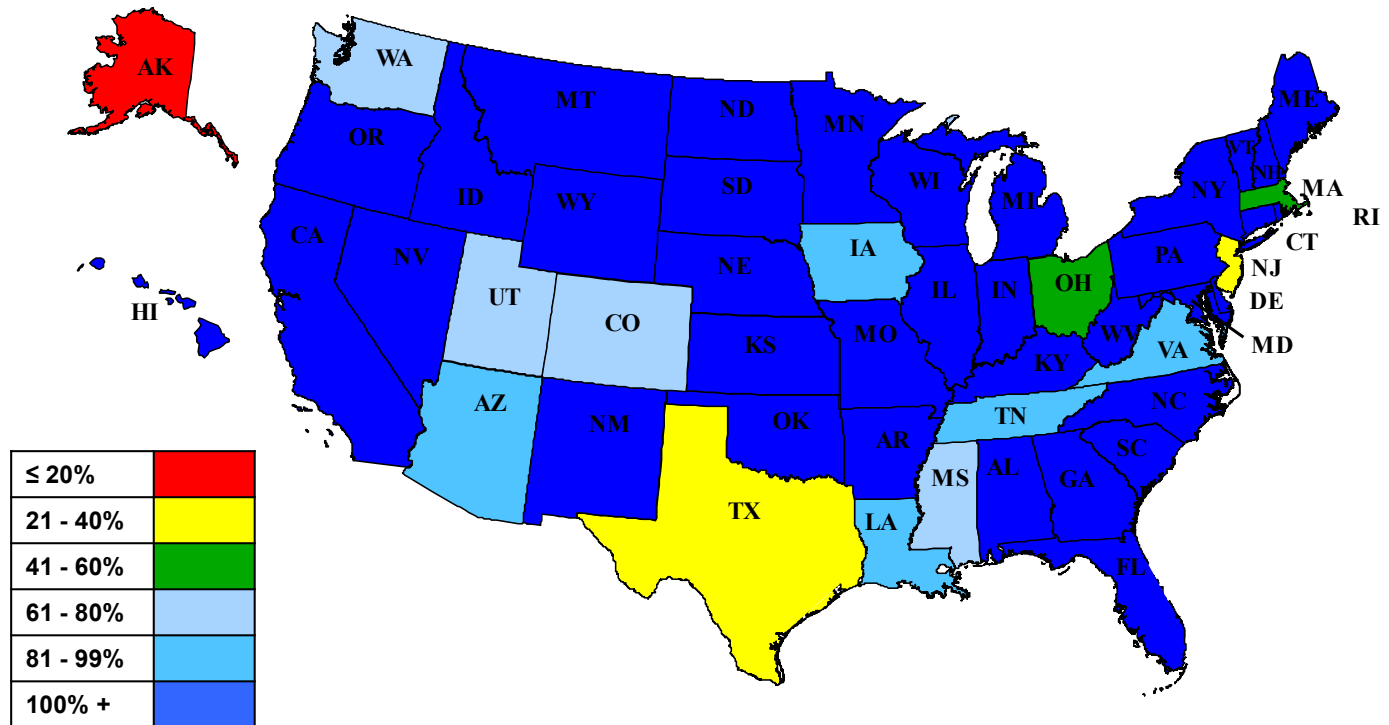
The National Scrapie Eradication Program establishes annual sheep and goat sampling minimums for each state, and tracks the states' level of compliance with meeting these minimums. These state minimums help ensure adequate geographical representation, so that APHIS can find the last remaining cases and 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 2016 is shown in the following two slides.

Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2016—RSSS and On-farm Surveillance—Sheep*



* As of February 29, 2016. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 35% of the annual sampling minimum.

Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2016—RSSS and On-farm Surveillance—Goats*



* As of February 29, 2016. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 40% of the annual sampling minimum. AK, RI and DE have a sampling minimum of 1. IA and MD had a large increase in their minimums due to finding an infected herd in each State in FY 2014.

Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie

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

National Institute of Animal Agriculture: www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie/scrapie.htm

Scrapie SharePoint: <http://animalhealth/scrapie/default.aspx>

(Federal employees can access this password-protected site by emailing Diane.L.Sutton@aphis.usda.gov if you need assistance.
State employees can request a copy on CD.)

