

SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



American Sheep
Industry Association

March 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 judym@sheepusa.org.

No U.S. Classical Scrapie Cases Since April 2016

The American Sheep Industry Association received outstanding news concerning scrapie during the 2017 Annual Convention in Denver.

Diane Sutton, DVM of U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services, reported on the excellent progress made on the elimination of scrapie in sheep in the United States, adding that similar effort needs to be made to eliminate the disease in goats.

No U.S. cases of classical scrapie have been reported since last April. There are two remaining scrapie infected flocks currently being worked with, a long-term infected goat herd in Colorado and a Texas sheep flock identified in 2016.

Sutton emphasized that producers need to help to find the last scrapie cases in the country by reporting mature sheep or goats that have neurologic signs to their state veterinarian or Veterinary Services office, and submitting heads from sheep or goats over 18 months old that die.

The diagnostic tests currently available to determine if a sheep or goat has scrapie requires brain or lymphoid tissue. Heads of mature sheep/goats can be submitted for scrapie testing to the Veterinary Services facility in Remington, Ind. Procedures for whole head collection are available on the APHIS website.

Scrapie is typically diagnosed by finding abnormal prion protein accumulation in the brain and/or lymphoid tissue of infected sheep or goats. In other scrapie news, APHIS published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* in September 2015 to amend the regulations for the National Scrapie Eradication Program. The comment period closed Dec. 9, 2015. The draft Final Rule is being reviewed. APHIS believes the update to the program will result in a more effective disease eradication program, with a more flexible approach to disease investigations and affected flock management and more consistent animal identification and recordkeeping requirements.

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. 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 2017, as of Jan. 31, 2017

11,885 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 11,197 RSSS and 688 on-farm samples
10,018 sheep and 1,867 goats.
0 sheep and 0 goats have tested positive

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

Since April 1, 2003

531,701 samples collected
480 NVSL* confirmed positives

*National Veterinary Services Laboratories

In FY 2017 (as of Jan. 31, 2017)

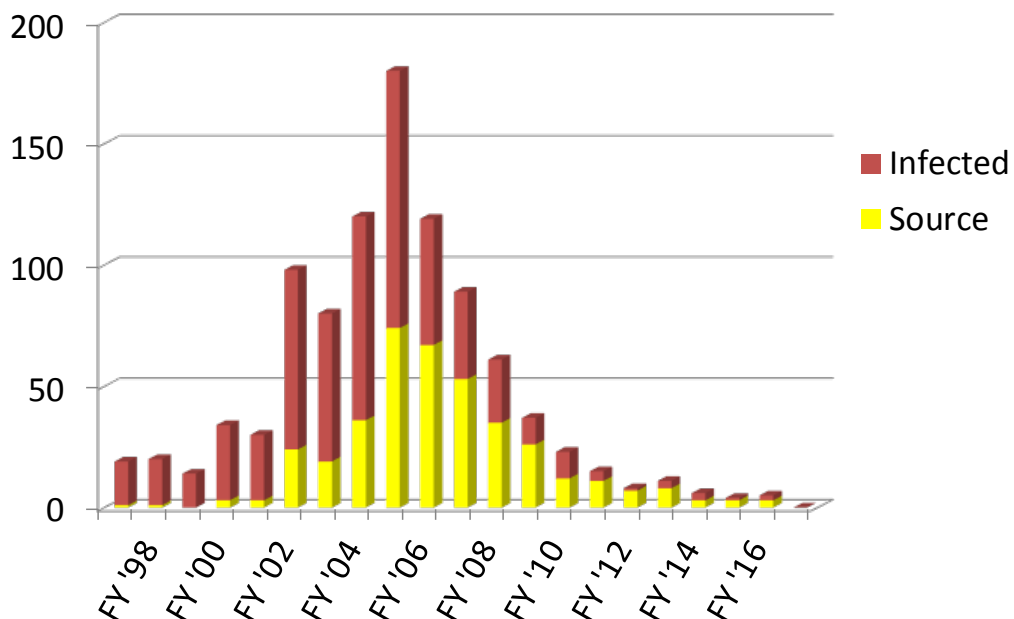
11,197 samples collected (1,646 from goats)
0 NVSL confirmed positive

On-Farm Surveillance

In Fiscal Year 2017, as of Jan. 31, 2017

688 animals have been tested on farm – 467 sheep and 221 goats

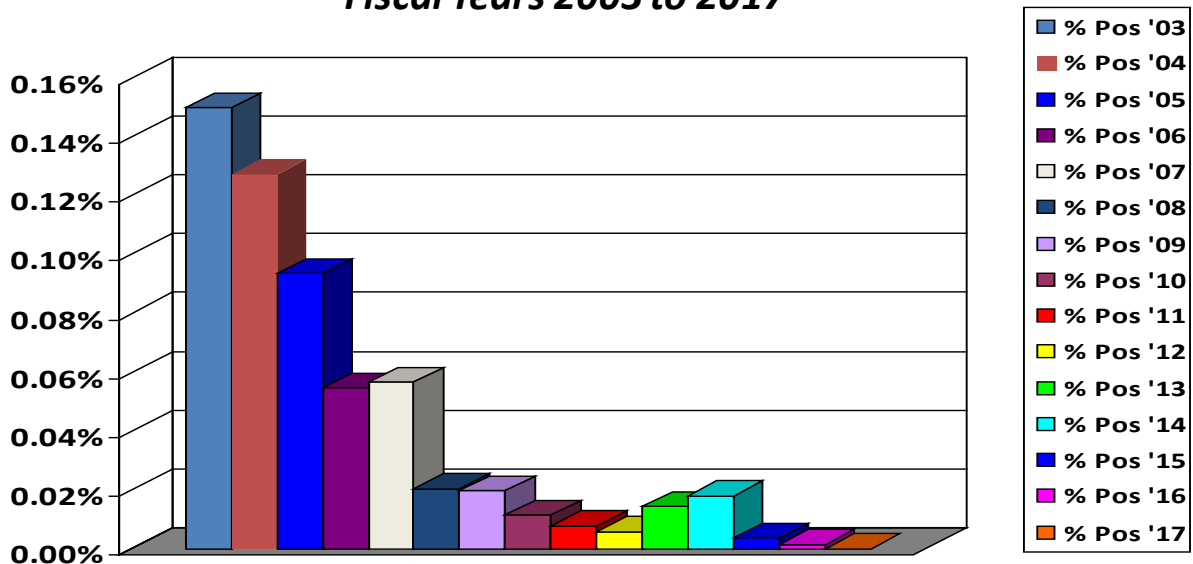
Infected and Source Flocks New Statuses by Year - *Fiscal Years 1997 to 2017**



* As of January 31, 2017

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

*Fiscal Years 2003 to 2017**

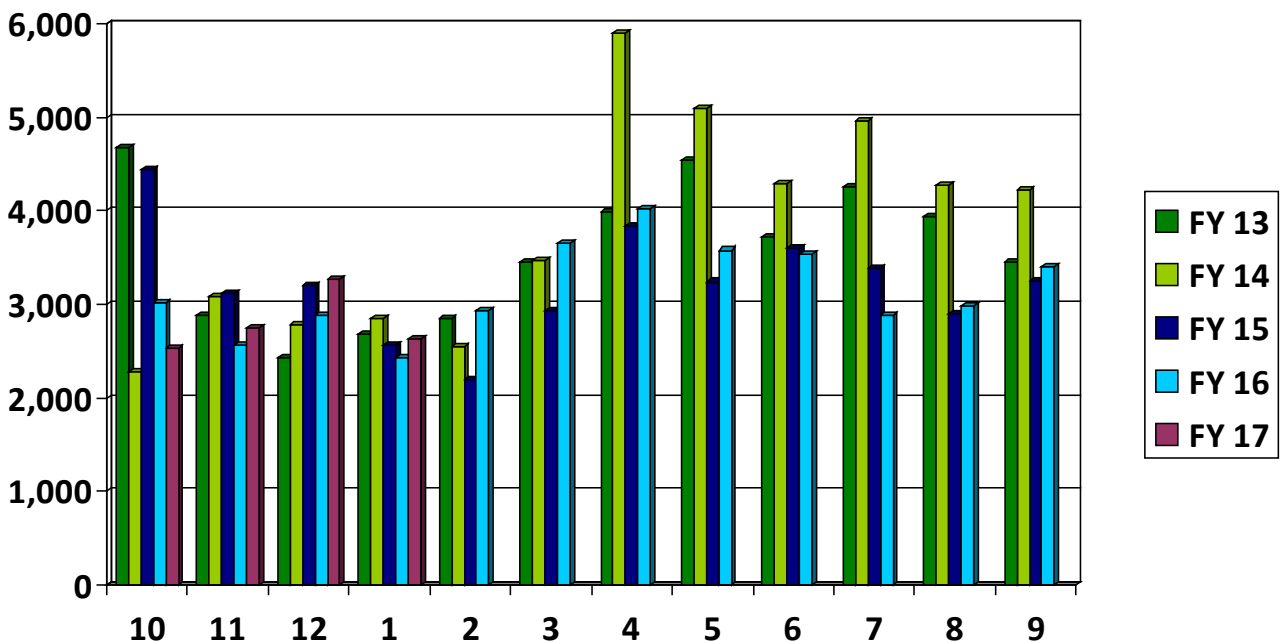


* As of January 31, 2017. Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from the same flock. Does not include Nor98-like scrapie cases found through RSSS (2 in FY 2007, 1 in FY 2008, 4 in FY 2010, 1 in FY 2011, and 1 in FY 2016).

Slaughter Surveillance Samples Collected by Month

Fiscal Years 2012 to 2017

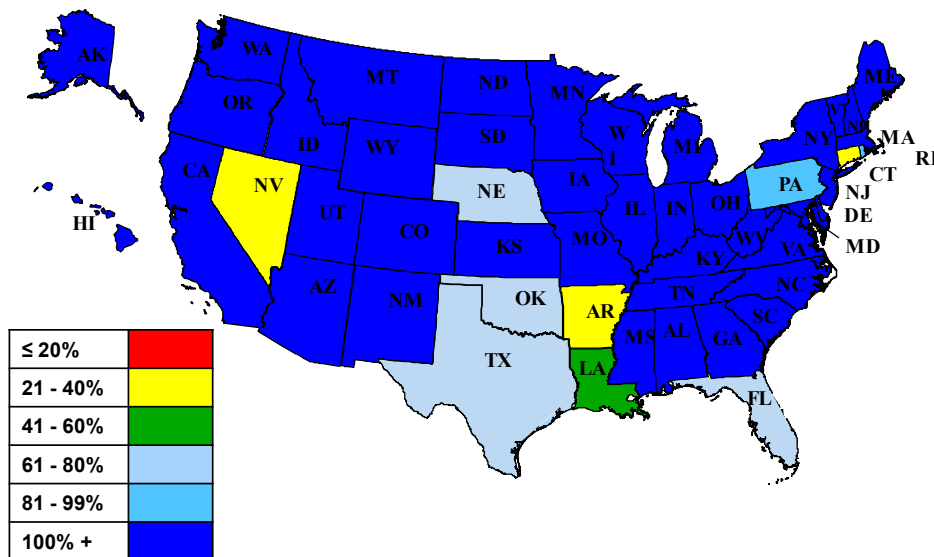
As of January 31, 2017



State Sampling Minimums

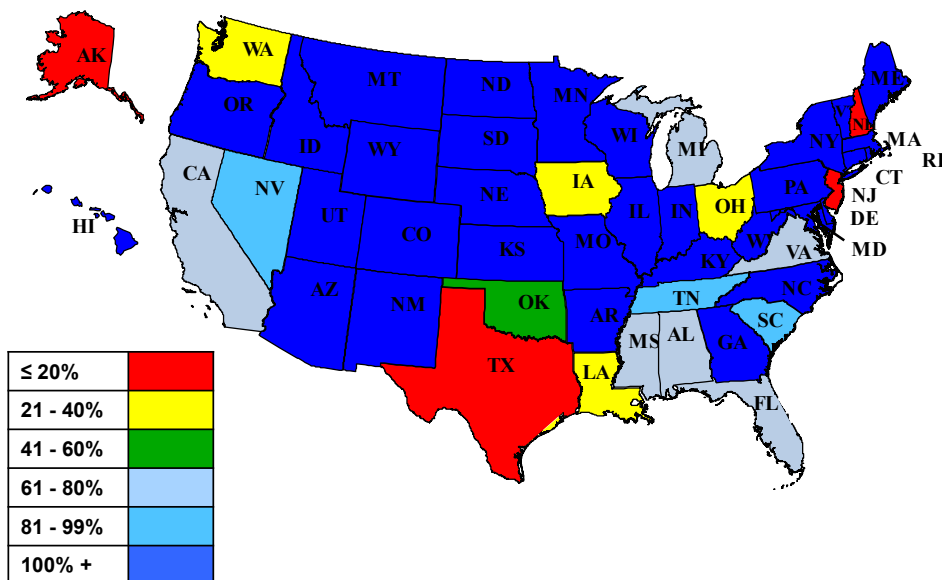
The National Scrapie Eradication Program establishes annual sheep and goat sampling minimums for each state, and tracks the states' level of compliance with meeting these minimums. These state minimums help ensure adequate geographical representation, so that APHIS can find the last remaining cases and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



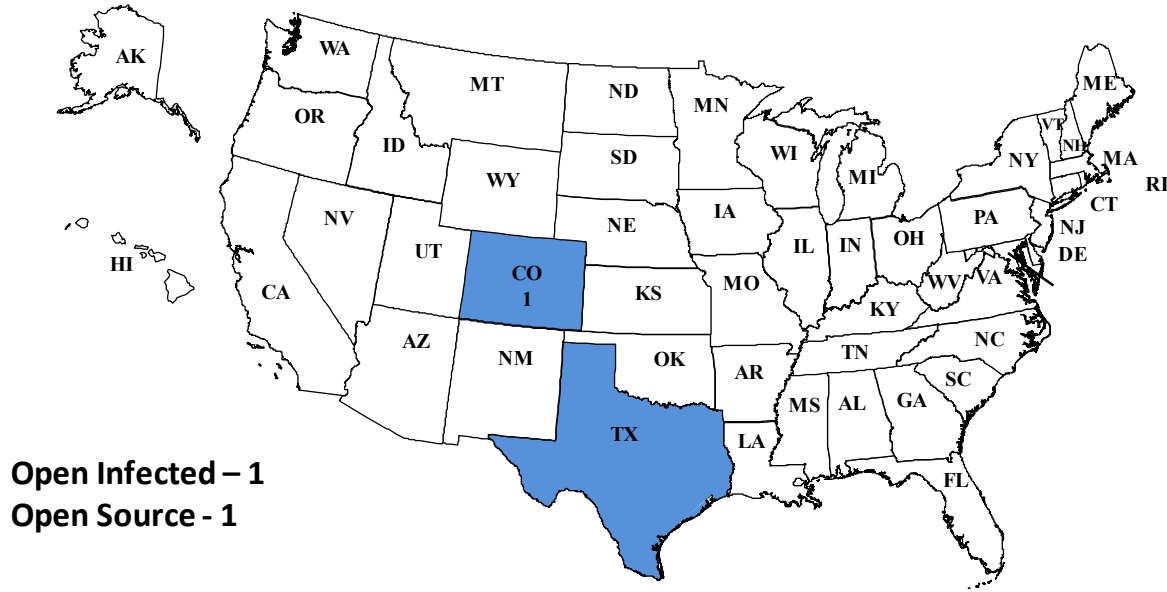
* As of January 31, 2017. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on .28% of the annual sampling minimum.

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

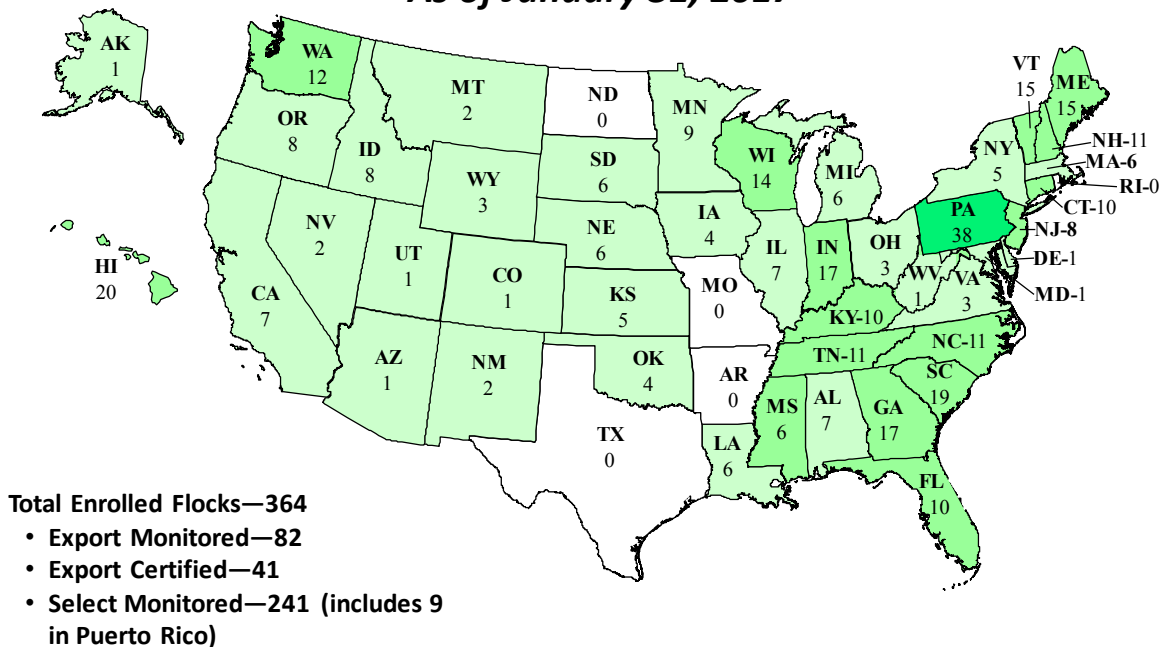


* As of January 31, 2017. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on .31% of the annual sampling minimum. AK and RI have a sampling minimum of 1 and DE has a sampling minimum of 2. IA and MD had a large increase in their minimums due to finding an infected herd in each State in FY 2014.

Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks Open Statuses - As of January 31, 2017



Scrapie Flock Certification Program: Participating Flocks As of January 31, 2017



Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

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

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

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

Scrapie SharePoint: <https://share.aphis.usda.gov/sites/on/>

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

