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.

June 2015

There has been some confusion among producers about livestock disease and tracking of livestock. Specifically, two valuable programs – The National Scrapie Eradication Program and the The National Animal Disease Traceability Program – have been misidentified.

The National Animal Disease Traceability Program that went into effect in March 2013 affected those domestic animal species that were not already in established USDA national animal health programs such as the National Scrapie Eradication Program. Many producers that own species not in established programs still had ID tags based on the former system on hand. The U.S. Department of Agriculture established a two-year grace period, until March 11, 2015, to allow those producers with older ID tags such as the 900 or USA tags to use them up before being required to convert to the new program.

The National Animal Disease Traceability Program was established as a “flexible, effective animal disease traceability system for livestock moving interstate, without undue burdens for ranchers and U.S. livestock businesses,” according to the USDA. Under the rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates.

Scrapie Program

The National Scrapie Eradication Program, coordinated by the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has reduced the prevalence of scrapie by more than 85 percent.

Producers are required to follow federal and state regulations for officially identifying their sheep and goats. Producers must also keep herd records showing what new animals were added and what animals left the flock. This guide is to help producers follow the regulations.

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.

Separate Efforts: Scrapie Eradication Program & Animal Disease Traceability Program

Official Identification

Official identification devices, including eartags and injectable transponders, must be approved by APHIS as being sufficiently tamper-resistant for the intended use, have good retention, and provide a unique identification number for each animal.

An owner may substitute tattooing for an official identification device under certain criteria.

Obtaining Official Tags

To request free tags or ask questions, call 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824). For registered herds, please provide the herd’s registration prefix and ask that it be used as your scrapie flock/herd identification number, along with your postal abbreviation.

Tags may also be purchased directly from approved tag manufacturers. Records must be kept for five years after the animal is sold or otherwise disposed. Ideally, producers should keep records in an electronic format. You should record the following information:

- official identification number
- breed
- date official identification was applied
- sex
- name/address of buyer
- date animal was acquired or year of birth if natural addition
- name/address of previous owner (if applicable)

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 area 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). Area offices can also be reached through the toll free number, 866-873-2824.

Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing
Sheep and Goats

In Fiscal Year 2015, as of May 31, 2015
26,894 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 25,398 RSSS and 1,496 on-farm samples 21,723 sheep and 5,171 goats.
30 sheep and 2 goat have tested positive

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

Since April 1, 2003
469,136 samples collected
477 NVSL* confirmed positives

In FY 2015 (as of May 31)
25,398 samples collected (4,787 from goats)
3 NVSL confirmed positives

On-Farm Surveillance

In Fiscal Year 2015, as of May 31, 2015
1,496 animals have been tested on farm – 1,112 sheep and 384 goats

Infected and Source Flocks
New Statuses by Year - Fiscal Years 1997 to 2015*

* As of May 31, 2015.
Percent of RSSS Sheep Samples that Tested Positive for Classical Scrapie - By Face Color - *Fiscal Year (2003 – 2015*)

* As of May 31, 2015—Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from same flock. Mottled- and white-faced combined. 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 2011 to 2015*

* As of May 31, 2015

* Surveillance numbers were significantly lower October 2013 compared to October in prior FYs because the furlough reduced the number of collection days.
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 2015 is shown in the following two slides.

* As of May 31, 2015. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 63% of the annual sampling minimum.

* As of May 31, 2015. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 66% 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.
FY 2015* Scrapie Confirmed Cases by State  
As of May 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Goats</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RSSS</td>
<td>On-Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total All States</td>
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<td>28</td>
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Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks: Open Statuses - As of May 31, 2015

Open Source – 4  
Open Infected – 1
New Scrapie Infected and Source Flocks
FY 2015 - As of May 31, 2015

New Source – 3
New Infected – 1

Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie
Maryland Small Ruminant Page: www.sheepandgoat.com/scrapie.html
Scrapie SharePoint: http://animalhealth/scrapie/default.aspx
(Federal employees can access this password-protected site by emailing earl.t.thorpe@aphis.usda.gov to receive a password.
State employees can request a copy on CD.)