

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 scrapie occurs primarily from an infected ewe to her offspring and other lambs exposed to the birth fluids, placenta or soiled bedding. ASI estimates scrapie costs the U.S. sheep industry more than \$40 million a year, primarily from lost exports. Through the hard work of producers, allied industries, states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and accredited veterinarians, the prevalence of scrapie in cull sheep in the United States has decreased by 99 percent since 2003.

ERADICATION IS IN SIGHT

You Are the Key to
Finding the Last Cases

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Scrapie can be difficult to diagnose, and it might take several years for an infected sheep to show signs of the disease. Signs might include one or more of the following:

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

LEARN MORE

American Sheep Industry Association

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<http://www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-animalhealth-scrapie>

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>

SCRAPIE



TIME TO ERADICATE



PRODUCERS CAN LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST SCRAPIE

CORRECTLY IDENTIFY SHEEP

The Scrapie Eradication Program is a mandatory program which requires sheep and goat producers, dealers, markets and slaughter plants to officially identify certain sheep and goats. Most animals 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. A limited number of official ear tags are available from USDA for sheep and goat producers who have never been assigned a flock ID number. **CALL 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) for information on obtaining Scrapie ID Tags.**

WHICH ANIMALS NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED?

- Most sheep and goats – except those going to slaughter as lambs/kids – need to have an official ear tag or other official ID when they leave the farm or change ownership.
- Lambs and kids in slaughter channels may move without official ear tags but must be accompanied by an owner/hauler statement that includes a group/lot ID and the information needed to trace the animals. A template for creating an owner/hauler statement will be available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>, or you can create your own owner/hauler statement.
- Sheep and goat wethers under 18 months of age do not require official ID or an owner/hauler statement.
- All states require certain sheep and goats to be officially identified on change of ownership. States may have other requirements, so check with the state veterinarian for information. It is the producer's responsibility to know and adhere to state requirements and, if moving them out of state or engaging in interstate commerce, to know and adhere to the federal requirements and those of the states to where the animals are being moved.
- Markets – some may ID sheep or goats if a proper owner/hauler statement accompanies the animals.

PROTECT YOUR FLOCK

- Close the Flock to Female Additions. Scrapie is transmitted primarily by females during lambing.
- Genetic Resistance. An RR Ram has a high genetic resistance to scrapie and will make his offspring less susceptible.
- Lambing Management. Remove placentas and bedding soiled by birth fluids right away and bury or dispose of in a sanitary landfill. Clean birthing areas between lambings.
- Flock Additions. Purchase ewes that have been tested at an official genotyping laboratory and select for the AAQR or RR genotype, or buy sheep from flocks that have reached the certified level of the national Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Isolate all new animals when first arriving for a period of time before they are introduced into the flock.

Fact Sheets, brochures and video clips of scrapie-infected sheep are located at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie> • <http://www.EradicateScrapie.org>

<http://www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-animalhealth-scrapie>



REPORT SUSPECT SHEEP & GOATS

If any signs of scrapie are noticed in a sheep or goat older than 18 months of age – or if a mature sheep or goat dies after showing signs of scrapie – it is important and required for you or your veterinarian to report it to your state veterinarian or to USDA's Veterinary Services.

Call USDA at 866-873-2824. Your state or USDA animal health official will determine if the animal should be tested for scrapie at no cost to the producer. Scrapie testing can be done on a living or dead animal.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT **SCRAPIE**