

Scrapies

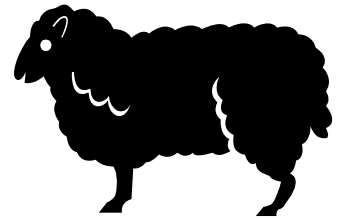
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All sheep and goat owners (including 4-H members) need to be aware of new federal regulations now in effect for the eradication of scrapie. Scrapie is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), similar to “mad cow disease.” Although it is relatively uncommon in the U.S., scrapie costs the nation’s sheep and goat producers an estimated 20-25 million dollars every year. The disease is characterized by itching and rubbing, loss of coordination, and muscular weakness. Although it may take several years to develop clinical symptoms, scrapie is always fatal. The National Scrapie Eradication Initiative hopes to eliminate scrapie in the United States by 2010.

The following animals are required to participate in the program:

- All breeding sheep, regardless of age.
- All sheep 18 months of age and older.
- All sheep and goats for exhibition, other than castrated males.
- All scrapie-exposed, suspect, test-positive, and high-risk animals.
- Breeding goats, except low-risk commercial goats.
- Sheep under 18 months of age in slaughter channels that are pregnant or have aborted, or intact males from an infected herd.



Producers or owners that are required to participate should request a Premises ID number and select an approved ear tag or other official identification system. ID numbers and ear tags can be obtained free of charge by calling toll free, 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824). Animals must be officially identified (tagged or tattooed) before they leave the owner or producer’s premises.

In addition, all breeding and sexually intact exhibition animals must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) issued no more than 30 days before shipment. All ID and health certificate records must be kept for five years, even if the animals have been sold, slaughtered, or died from other causes.

Scrapie Eradication Program information and materials are available by calling toll free, 866-873-2824. Information is also available at www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie, or at the Wasco County Extension office.