Scrapie Eradication Progress

The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) is a national program to eradicate Scrapie in the U.S. The NSEP or the Scrapie Program, as we know it, began November 2001 after the Sheep Industry proposed the eradication of Scrapie to the USDA.

The primary components of the Scrapie program are:

1. Mandatory Scrapie ID (identification) of sexually intact sheep and certain classes of goats so animals can be traced to their flock of birth and any other flocks they have entered where lambing/kidding may have occurred.

2. Scrapie testing of adult sheep and goats at slaughter through a program called Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS).

3. When animals that are infected with Scrapie are detected, their Scrapie ID can be used by regulatory officials to trace them back to their birth flock and other flocks they have spent time in. The regulatory officials will then work with the producer(s) to develop a plan to “clean-up” or eradicate Scrapie from the flock.

US progress: As can be seen in the graph below, the United States has made significant progress in eradicating Scrapie from the U.S. sheep and goat flocks. Only 5 Scrapie infected flocks have been detected in the entire United States in Fiscal Year 2016 compared to a high of 180 flocks in Fiscal Year 2005.

Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance: As can be seen in the chart below the number of Scrapie positive sheep found at slaughter has been steadily decreasing. Historically, Scrapie has been found most commonly in Black-face sheep and that continues to be the case. For FY2003, the prevalence of Scrapie at slaughter in Black-face sheep was 0.88%. For FY2016, the prevalence is 0.01 %. For all sheep breeds the prevalence at slaughter was 0.0148 % in FY2003 compared to 0.001 % now.
The prevalence of Scrapie in goats has historically been low and the prevalence in cull goats at slaughter is estimated to be 0.003%.

**Iowa Progress:** Since 1993, the state of Iowa has had 86 herds that have been infected with Scrapie and has made steady progress in eradicating Scrapie. The chart below shows the number of Scrapie Infected Flocks detected in Iowa since the calendar year 2002. The last case of Scrapie in an Iowa producer’s herd was in a goat herd in January 2014. This producer also had sheep that had been diagnosed with Scrapie in 2013.

As the U.S. enters the last years of the Scrapie eradication effort we will be depending more and more on sheep and goat producers and private practicing veterinarians to find and report the last remaining cases of Scrapie.