

# Scrapie and Goats

Goats can become infected with Scrapie and there have been 41 cases of Scrapie in goats reported in the United States since 2002. Most cases of Scrapie in goats involve exposure to sheep where it appears that the sheep flock was infected with Scrapie, the goats were exposed to Scrapie by the sheep, and the goats became infected.



<http://www.offthegridnews.com>

Most of the signs and modes of transmission of Scrapie are the same in goats as in sheep. One difference is that there is no known genetic resistance to Scrapie in goats. Researchers are still investigating the possibility of genetic resistance in goats, but have not yet identified a resistant genotype. Therefore, currently all goats are considered genetically susceptible to Scrapie.

Some labs offer genotyping for goats but the results are of dubious value since there is no known genotype that confers complete resistance to Scrapie in goats.

**The bottom line is:**

**ALL GOATS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SCRAPIE AS THERE IS NO KNOWN GENETIC RESISTANCE.**

USDA does not currently recognize genetic resistance in goats for the purposes of the National Scrapie Eradication Program and if a goat herd is found to be infected with Scrapie, for the quarantine to be removed, all sexually intact goats would have to be euthanized and indemnified (depending on availability of USDA funds). Likewise, in infected sheep flocks with goats on site, for the quarantine to be removed, all sexually intact goats and all QQ sexually intact sheep would have to be euthanized and indemnified (depending on availability of USDA funds).

For producers who have sheep and goats on the same premise or have sheep and goats on separate premises but don't practice good biosecurity, a diagnosis of Scrapie in their sheep or goats may mean the euthanasia of their QQ sheep and all of their sexually intact goats.

**Producers who have goats should consider the following safeguards:**

- 1). Not keeping sheep.
- 2). Keep sheep and goats on separate premise and practice good biosecurity.
- 3). Keep only sheep that are genetically resistant to Scrapie (only RR and QR ewes and RR rams) to greatly reduce the risk of Scrapie in their goats.
- 4). Maintain a closed herd to limit the introduction of Scrapie (and many other diseases).

