

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26, 9 and 30 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: EXPORT OF SHEEP AND GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Under the National Scrapie Eradication Program the prevalence of scrapie in the United States flock has decreased significantly over the past 10 years. The funding for the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) has been reduced and participation by sheep and goat breeders has dramatically decreased. It has become increasingly difficult to find breeding sheep and goats for export shipments that meet importing country protocols that rely on SFCP participation. Additionally, new tools such as genotyping and live-animal testing can be used to identify sheep that are at low risk for scrapie. These approaches may provide an appropriate basis for revised export protocols.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Health and Plant Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to expand their negotiating tools for the export of sheep and goats beyond those that rely on the *Scrapie Flock Certification Program* participation alone and to encourage other countries to recognize current National Scrapie Eradication Program prevalence and surveillance data along with the use of other tools such as genotyping when appropriate.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding scrapie and trade and appreciates the opportunity to respond. Because scrapie is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, it garners increased attention and concern from importing countries. Therefore, despite the low prevalence of scrapie in the United States, scrapie affects the export of breeding stock, semen, and embryos to many foreign countries.

VS, as a part of international negotiations for export of sheep and goats from the United States, continues to promote the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP). Despite these efforts, most countries hold strictly to guidelines of the World Organization for

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
2012 RESOLUTION

Animal Health (OIE), which limit us to using the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) to qualify breeding animals for export. Further, some countries do not recognize the SFCP program as meeting OIE requirements. We intend to ask OIE to modify the Scrapie Chapter to consider options such as genotyping to qualify animals for export.