



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
2015 RESOLUTION  
119TH ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 22-28 2015 ~ PROVIDENCE, RI

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 13                    **APPROVED**

**SOURCE:**                                **COMMITTEE ON scrapie**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**                    **Scrapie Rule**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

While the Scrapie Eradication Program has been very successful in decreasing the prevalence of scrapie in the United States, eradication has not yet been achieved in sheep or goats. Improved traceability and surveillance are needed to detect the last remaining cases of scrapie, proving to our trading partners that the United States is scrapie-free thus adding approximately \$50 million in export value. Mandatory identification of sheep has allowed slaughter surveillance to be the key in reducing the prevalence of scrapie in sheep by 85%. Slaughter surveillance of goats has been problematic because currently only 50% of mature goats are officially identified at slaughter, making it impossible to conduct effective surveillance.

A proposed rule to amend 9 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 54 and 79 has been published. This proposed rule addresses new standards for official identification and traceability for goats as well as other gaps in the regulation. To succeed in the eradication of scrapie, it is imperative that this rule be promptly finalized after appropriate review and consideration of comments.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture to publish a final scrapie rule in early 2016. The proposed rule, which provides for improved traceability for goats and addresses other gaps in the current regulation, is a critically important element needed to achieve scrapie eradication in the United States.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association. APHIS is working on the final rule with the intent to publish it in calendar year 2016.