
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 21 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: National Scrapie Eradication Program Funding

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Due to the success of the cooperative National Scrapie Eradication Program, no new cases of scrapie have been identified in the United States (US) in the past 18 months. There are key components of the program that have been critical to this success and the effort to have the US be recognized internationally as free from scrapie, which would open new markets to US sheep and goat products. Surveillance and traceability are vital to this eradication program. Program use of sheep and goat official tags have demonstrated that official plastic tags are preferred over metal tags for readability and to reduce safety concerns. Funding for tags that are readable, acceptable to producers and efficient for regulators is essential to continue identification compliance and progress of the program.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture to request a congressional appropriation of five million additional dollars of new money to be added to the Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant health line for the purpose of supporting Small Ruminant Health Programs to complete the eradication of scrapie and assure program success. It is vital that this new funding does not reduce other current United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services program funding lines.