

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 28 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS, AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: GENETIC SCRAPIE RESISTANCE - GOATS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Genotype selection for scrapie resistance in sheep has been proven to be a great asset to the eradication of scrapie in sheep. Genetic tools for goats should have similar benefits. Based on information presented by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service researchers, sufficient data exists to support further efforts toward testing for goat scrapie genotype resistance and development of field applications in the National Scrapie Eradication Program. Additional studies are needed to assess the frequency of goat scrapie genotypes and assist producers in adopting these tools. It is important the upcoming National Animal Health Monitoring System 2019 Goat Study and other studies include scrapie genotyping components. Additionally, continuation of long-term follow up studies and other research relating to scrapie transmission and scrapie diagnostics are vital to successful scrapie eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) to pursue efforts to develop pilot projects to explore the use of goat scrapie genotype testing in the National Scrapie Eradication Program. USAHA also requests that USDA's APHIS and Agricultural Research Service conduct surveys to assess the frequency of resistant genotypes in U.S. goats, including National Animal Health Monitoring system 2019 Goat Study. We further urge USDA to increase efforts to enhance the availability of resistant genotypic information to U.S. goat producers and ongoing studies related to transmission and diagnostics related to scrapie.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of USAHA regarding the use of goat genotyping in the Scrapie Program. VS recognizes the potential benefits and is exploring options to leverage goat genotyping as a disease management and eradication tool. VS is currently piloting a process to genotype slaughter goats submitted for scrapie testing. If the pilot is successful, we plan to genotype about 3,000 slaughter goats submitted for scrapie testing to better understand

the distribution of resistant genotypes in the slaughter goat population. VS will publish the slaughter genotyping data at the end of the project. VS will also work with our State Animal Health Officials to evaluate the use, and potentially pilot, genetic-based herd clean-up plans in suitable infected goat herds. VS will provide updates on these activities through the monthly and annual scrapie program reports published on the VS scrapie web page.

Pending funding and the Office of Management and Budget approval, the National Animal Health Monitoring System plans to offer genotyping as part of the 2019 Goat Study, to examine the distribution of resistant alleles in U.S. goats. VS, in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Service, provided goat genotyping information on the VS scrapie web page, and encouraged producer organizations to create a link, on their websites, to the information.