
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SHEEP, GOATS AND CAMELIDS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) relies greatly on owner compliance to identify their animals as they leave the farm for exhibition or sales. No-cost official ear tags have greatly encouraged identification (ID) and thus program compliance. There have been a multitude of problems noted with the use of official metal program tags such as infection, poor retention, difficulty in accurately recording the numbers, and safety hazards when shearing. With the expected publication of the interstate movement rule which will require the same ID requirements of goats as currently exist for sheep, the next few years are critical in encouraging goat and sheep producer compliance regarding ID and tagging. The industries feel strongly that, at a minimum, the provision of a limited number of no-cost official plastic tags will incentivize new goat and sheep producer compliance. In addition, the industries do not want to compromise the NSEP that has been built over the past 17 years at an expense of more than \$250 million.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to provide, at a minimum, a limited number of no-cost official plastic tags to producers enrolling in the National Scrapie Eradication Program for the first time. USDA, APHIS would provide the no-cost ear tags, but producers would be responsible for acquiring an applicator. Further, USAHA urges USDA, APHIS to continue to provide no-cost tags to markets and dealers.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns regarding Scrapie Program tags provided by VS. In addition to fiscal year (FY) 2018 funding, VS encourages program compliance through the provision of no-cost tags for sheep and goats. Through the rest of FY 2019, VS intends to provide up to 80 no-cost official plastic tags to sheep or goat producers requesting a flock ID and tags for the first time (producers will be responsible for acquiring an applicator) and no-cost metal tags to markets and dealers. VS plans to allocate \$300,000 for both FY 2019 and 2020, to provide both plastic and metal serial tags to markets and dealers at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.