
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, APHIS and USDA, Agricultural Research Service conduct surveys to assess the frequency of resistant genotypes in United States (US) goats, including National Animal Health Monitoring system 2019 Goat Study. We further urge the USDA to increase efforts to enhance the availability of resistant genotypic information to US goat producers and ongoing studies related to transmission and diagnostics related to scrapie.