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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26**

**APPROVED**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Need For Ongoing Scrapie Research**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

While the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) has been successful in decreasing the prevalence of scrapie in the United States, eradication of scrapie has not yet been achieved. With all disease eradication programs, as prevalence of the disease declines, the ability to identify the remaining cases becomes an ever greater challenge. With the 2019 publication of the NSEP standards, continued discovery of unique features of goat scrapie, improved live animal diagnostics and understanding of nonclassical scrapie are needed to achieve scrapie eradication.

We appreciate that scrapie program leaders have incorporated scientific discovery into pilot projects and the evolution of eradication program standards. Scrapie research continues to be valuable in efforts toward scrapie eradication. Research on the genetics of scrapie susceptibility/resistance in sheep and goats, differences in clinical signs and incubation periods in sheep and goats and live animal diagnostics are of continued importance. Research on the identification, diagnosis and epidemiology of nonclassical scrapie is also vital to achieving eradication of classical scrapie in the United States. Given the long incubation period of the disease, scrapie research requires multi-year commitment to carry out research on the epidemiology and pathogenesis of scrapie infection.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the USDA, Agricultural Research Service to work together to continue research into the pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnosis and genetic resistance to disease of scrapie in sheep and goats, and validate and implement new approaches into the National Scrapie Eradication Program.