RESOLUTION NUMBER: 29 and 33 Combined APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE
       COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM – SURVEILLANCE LEVELS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress toward scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) began in 2001 and has made excellent progress as demonstrated by a 96 percent reduction of scrapie in sheep diagnosed positive at slaughter as adjusted for face color. At this time the best available epidemiological analysis suggests that, with adequate funding, eradication is possible by 2017. However, as described in the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan, funding is currently inadequate to meet surveillance goals. Specifically, funding is needed to insure that sampling goals are met for both sheep and goats and that the information system is designed to maximize the value of the data collected. Also, the number of scrapie-positive animals that could be traced from slaughter was only 80 percent in FY 2011. Surveillance, identification compliance, and producer education must be significantly increased in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-infected flocks/herds.

As the NSEP nears success, maximum surveillance is needed to achieve the final goal of eradication. We are concerned that federal budget constraints may jeopardize the ability to carry out the targeted surveillance needed for final scrapie eradication.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Veterinary Services to maintain or increase scrapie surveillance levels for sheep, and increase surveillance levels for goats.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates your concerns and intends to maintain scrapie surveillance levels as high as possible, given the current and expected budget. To maximize the effectiveness of surveillance, for example, we are limiting sampling of lower risk classes of sheep and
goats to animals in the 2- to 5-year age range. In that way, we will be focusing resources on testing animals where the disease is most likely to be found.