

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON SCRAPIE

SUBJECT MATTER: SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM FUNDING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To continue progress toward scrapie eradication, enhanced surveillance and enforcement of regulations is paramount. The Accelerated Scrapie Eradication Program began in 2001 and has made excellent progress as demonstrated by an 80 percent reduction of scrapie in black-faced sheep diagnosed positive at slaughter. 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 positive animals that can be traced from slaughter is only 80 percent. Surveillance, identification compliance, and producer education must be significantly increased in order to find the diminishing number of scrapie-infected flocks/herds. Funding requests are currently inadequate to effectively eradicate scrapie in a reasonable amount of time.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request adequate funding for the National Scrapie Eradication Program's budget to achieve eradication and conduct subsequent surveillance. This amount is equal to \$10 million beyond the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriation or a total budget of \$28.6 million annually adjusted for inflation.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the United States Animal Health Association's interest in scrapie. VS began implementing the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan in fiscal year 2009. The plan is posted on the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/sheep/national_scrapie_surveillance_plan_08192008.pdf. This spring, VS will develop the fiscal year 2012 scrapie budget request. APHIS will

reconsider all disease program funding requests and needs and will prioritize its overall budget accordingly.