

## SCRAPIE AND Q FEVER FOR GOAT PRODUCERS



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### Scrapie:

Symptoms often don't appear until 3 to 5 years of age and early signs are often subtle changes in behavior or temperament. This can be followed by scratching and rubbing against fixed objects. Other signs are loss of co-ordination, weight loss despite having a good appetite, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, star gazing, and gait abnormalities, including swaying of the back end.



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Scrapie costs producers over \$20 million dollars annually through production losses, increased production costs and loss of export revenue.

Goat Producers are the Key  
To Eradicating Scrapie in the U.S.



### Why is Scrapie Important?

It is similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as "Mad Cow Disease."

Because of the fear of transmission to humans, the World Health Organization has determined that countries must show they have programs in place to control Scrapie. Many countries, including Canada will not allow imports of goats or sheep from the USA unless they are from farms that are enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Program.



### What is the Scrapie Eradication Program?

It consists of the voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) which began in 1992, and the mandatory National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) begun in 2001. NSEP is a cooperative state-federal program designed to find and eradicate classical Scrapie from the U.S. and meet the World Health Organization for Animal Health (OIE) criteria for disease freedom. NSEP relies on slaughter surveillance and reporting of Scrapie suspects by producers and veterinarians.

### How Does this Proposed Rule Affect Goat Owners?

- 1) It makes the identification and recordkeeping requirements for goat owners consistent with those for sheep owners.
- 2) It gives the APHIS Administrator authority to relieve requirements for sheep and goats exposed to Scrapie types.
- 3) It increases flexibility for how investigations can be conducted and allows the epidemiology in a specific flock to be given more consideration in determining flock and animal status.
- 4) It removes the requirement to record individual identification already on animals when received or purchased.
- 5) It adds the requirement for an owner hauler statement for animals in slaughter channels.



### What Other Changes Does this Proposed Rule Make?

- 1) It requires states to meet surveillance minimums to remain Consistent States. Surveillance minimums are based on the number of breeding sheep or goats in the state.



### What Other Changes Does this Proposed Rule Make?

- 2) It moves the following information from the regulation to the APHIS website in the form of Program Standards to allow quicker response to new information.
  - A) A List of Consistent States.
  - B) Allowed identification devices and methods and restrictions on their use.
  - C) Disease Status classification procedures for flocks and animals.
  - D) Program approved tests for Scrapie and Scrapie susceptibility and procedures for their use.
  - E) Specifics on how fair market value is calculated for indemnity purposes.



### What Needs to be Done?

Slaughter surveillance, which has been in place since 2003, has resulted in an 80- 90 percent decrease in prevalence in US sheep and goat herds.



In order to declare the US "Scrapie free", we must be able to prove we have conducted testing in all sheep and goat populations.



### Why Goat Producers are the Key To Eradicating Scrapie in the U.S.

Since mature goats (over 18 months of age – the age when Scrapie can best be detected) seldom go through traditional slaughter channels, goat surveillance is lacking.



For this reason, goat producers are the key players in this important effort to protect our US sheep and goat herds.



### Why Should You Care?

- 1) Your herd is at risk! Scrapie is usually transmitted at birth, but animals do not show symptoms until they are 3-5 years of age, making it possible for you to acquire an animal and have it reside in your herd, without showing symptoms for many years, exposing your herd and environment to Scrapie.



### Why Should You Care?

- 2) The US goat and sheep industries will continue to lose revenue (approximately 20 million dollars a year) due to production losses, increased production costs and loss of export revenue. Many countries ban imports of U.S. goat genetics and products because we are not an OIE certified "Scrapie free" country.





### Why Should You Care?

- 3) When Scrapie cases are identified, state and federal regulatory agencies attempt to trace animal(s) back to the herd of origin. If the owner of the affected animal has incomplete or inaccurate records, officials may be directed to your herd by mistake.

If your herd complies with regulations by correctly identifying animals and keeping accurate records, then you will be able to show that your herd was not the source of the infected animal.



### Why Should You Care?

#### IT IS THE LAW

- 4) The NSEP, coordinated by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in cooperation with your state officials have regulations in place outlining the need for identification of animals that leave your premises for the purpose of sale, exhibition or slaughter.

This information can be found in the APHIS factsheet "NSEP: Animal Identification and Recordkeeping Guide for Sheep and Goats".



### THE GOOD NEWS IS

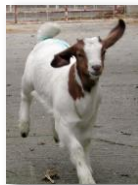
- 5) Over the years the Scrapie programs have been very successful. When the National Animal ID Programs were proposed in 2001, it was determined that the Scrapie program for sheep and goats was working well and no further requirements were needed for sheep and goat producers.



Coxiellosis (Query or Queensland Fever), more commonly known as Q-fever is an infection caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii* that can survive in dried condition for extended periods. It impacts cattle, sheep, and goats and can be a serious disease in Humans as well.



Q-fever is usually asymptomatic in goats and sheep.



It causes flu-like symptoms in humans.

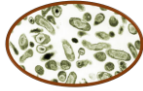


### It Causes

#### Reproductive Failure in Goats

- Abortions, Stillbirths
- Retained Placenta
- Infertility
- Weak newborns
- Low Birth Weights

Mastitis in Cattle



The bacteria causes inflammation and necrosis of the placenta in susceptible pregnant does which results in abortion. Non-pregnant does do not develop clinical signs.



Some does do not appear ill prior to aborting. Others may stop eating and appear depressed 1 to 2 days prior to aborting.

The doe becomes immune after the initial abortion, but can carry the bacteria indefinitely, and shed it in milk, and urine and feces, and at kidding.



Direct exposure to afterbirth poses the highest risk for infection, but Q-Fever can also be acquired by inhaling the bacteria in contaminated airborne dust. Tick bites and grazing contaminated pastures are also a possible source of infection.



Goats with Q-Fever usually are not treated since the doe becomes immune to the disease after aborting. In addition, antibiotics generally will not kill all the bacteria, which could lead to higher resistance. There are vaccines for cattle and humans, but they are not available in the United States.



To help prevent the spread of the infection, clean up all afterbirth and affected bedding, wearing protective gloves and mask. Isolate does who have aborted from the rest of the herd. Dispose of contaminated material by burning, burial or method used for hazardous waste.



Humans become infected primarily by inhaling the bacteria in contaminated air, or by handling infected fetuses and afterbirth. The disease can also be transmitted in nonpasteurized milk from infected does.



Humans can display severe flu-like symptoms and are usually treated with antibiotics. However, there are cases of humans developing chronic Q-Fever in spite of the use of antibiotics.



These Animals can be Carriers of Q-Fever

- Birds
- Cats
- Dogs
- Horses
- Rabbits



Unexplained abortions in your goats could be caused by Q-fever.



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