

Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP)

Summary of the Revised Program

June, 2013

- **Background**
 - The SFCP is a voluntary program designed to monitor participating sheep and goat flocks for evidence of scrapie; additionally, for flocks participating in the Export category, the program provides a pathway for certification of negligible scrapie risk.
 - The objective of the revised program is to maintain a certification pathway to facilitate export of live sheep and goats and embryos while focusing local resources on increased surveillance.
- **Previous SFCP Structure.** There were 3 categories of participation in the SFCP.
 - Selective category: low level of monitoring; flocks cannot become certified.
 - Complete category: medium level of monitoring; flocks can achieve “Certified” status after 5 years.
 - Export category: high level of monitoring; flocks can achieve “Export Certified” status after 7 years.
- **Revised SFCP Structure.** The Complete category is eliminated; the Select category is revised and the Export category is slightly modified
 - **Select category:** APHIS will redirect monitoring from inspections to sampling; flocks do not become certified.
 - No annual inspections.
 - Report clinical signs of scrapie.
 - Flocks follow 9 CFR 79 requirements for recordkeeping and animal ID.
 - Flocks can acquire animals from any other flock, whether or not that flock is enrolled in the SFCP.
 - Sampling requirements:
 - Clinical suspects over 12 months of age must be tested;
 - Animals of any age that either test suspect, inconclusive or positive on a live animal scrapie test or have been determined to be a scrapie suspect by an State, Federal or accredited veterinarian; and
 - Annual sampling minimum (1 animal per 1-3 years, depending on flock size).
 - **Export Category:** APHIS will continue high level of monitoring including inspections and sampling; flocks can become Export Certified.
 - Annual inspections.
 - Report clinical signs of scrapie.
 - Official SFCP animal ID requirements.
 - Rigorous recordkeeping requirements, including maintaining records on every animal that leaves the flock for 7 years.
 - Inspect all cull animals, including home slaughtered animals, for clinical signs of scrapie at least 30 days before culling.
 - Flocks can acquire female animals and embryos only from other Export category flocks of equal or higher status.

- Flocks can use sheep and goat milk and colostrum, and products derived therefrom, from only Export flocks of equal or higher status.
- Sampling requirements:
 - Clinical suspects over 12 months of age must be tested;
 - Animals of any age that either test suspect, inconclusive or positive on a live animal scrapie test or have been determined to be a scrapie suspect by an State, Federal or accredited veterinarian;
 - All found dead animals, including euthanized animals;
 - Annual sampling minimum: 1 test eligible animal tested for each year of status held (flock is removed from the program if it does not submit at least 1 test eligible animal for 2 sequential years);
 - To gain 6 years time in status, 15 test eligible animals must be sampled; and
 - To be eligible for Export Certified status
 - 7 years' time in status
 - Meet 1 of 3 sampling protocols
 - Standard: 30 test eligible animals
 - Alternative 1: test all genetically susceptible animals sold
 - Alternative 2: test all foundation flock animals.
- Participants in the Complete category have the following options: (1) join the Export category with up to 5 years time in status; (2) join the revised Select category; or (3) withdraw from the program.
- Participating flocks that hold "Certified" status in the Complete category:
 - If they join the Export category, APHIS will continue to publish their "Certified" status (in addition to their new "Export Monitored" status) on its Web site until June 4, 2016 or they reach Export Certified status, whichever occurs sooner.
 - If they join the Select category or withdraw from the program, APHIS will not continue to publish their "Certified" status on its website.