

## Scrapie Program Procedures, Devices, and Tests Approved by the Administrator

In accordance with a proposed rule APHIS published in the Federal Register on September 10, 2015 which is available for comment at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2007-0127> until November 9, 2015, we are considering amending the scrapie regulations at title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) parts 54 and 79. We also propose to maintain certain lists of approved procedures, devices, and tests at this URL on the internet. This material is presented in five sections in this document: List of Consistent States, Identification Devices, Reclassification Procedures, Use of Program-Approved Tests for Scrapie, and Indemnity Payment Calculation Procedures. This information has also been incorporated into the draft Scrapie Program Standards, Volume 1: National Scrapie Eradication Program which is also posted at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2007-0127>. We are requesting comment on this document until November 9, 2015, which will be finalized concurrent with the rule.

### **List of Consistent States**

In the proposed rule, the definition for Consistent State applies to States conducting an active State scrapie control program that meets certain requirements. The proposed definition also indicates that a list of Consistent States can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>.

The current list of Consistent States includes all 50 States: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New

Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

## **Identification Devices**

In the proposed rule, 9 CFR 79.2(a)(2) states: “A list of approved identification devices and methods, including restrictions on their use, is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>. Written requests for approval of sheep or goat identification device types or methods not listed at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie> should be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Animal Health Programs [now the Sheep, Goat, Cervid, and Equine Health Center, Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services], National Scrapie Program Coordinator, 4700 River Road Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737 1235. If the Administrator determines that an identification device or method will provide an effective means of tracing sheep and goats in interstate commerce, APHIS will provide public notice that the device or method, along with any restrictions on its use, has been added to the list of approved devices and methods of official sheep and goat identification.” Requests for approval of eartags for official use in sheep or goats in accordance with 9 CFR 79.2(f) should be sent to the same address. The proposed list of approved identification devices and methods and restrictions on their use follows:

### **Allowed identification devices and methods and restrictions on their use**

- a. Official identification devices approved for use in sheep and goats may be found at <https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/aims/>. Select “List ID Devices’ from Public Tools, then Scrapie Program Tags” from the drop down menu, and click on “Get

Approved Devices”. When new devices are approved, they are added to this site.

- 1) Restricted use of colored tags - Official red, yellow, and blue metal or blue plastic eartags may only be used for the following purposes.
  - a) Official red metal eartags are only to be used for animals that have tested positive for scrapie on an official test.
  - b) Official yellow metal eartags are only to be used for exposed animals permanently restricted to a premises.
  - c) Official blue eartags (metal or plastic) produced after [Insert effective date of final rule] are to be imprinted with “Slaughter Only” or “MEAT.” Such eartags are only to be applied to animals in slaughter channels.

- 2) Eartag placement

- a) Eartags should be placed in the left ear to aid in shearing.
- b) Eartags may not be placed in any other tissue other than the ear.
- c) Animals that cannot be ear tagged because of absent or injured ears, or because the application of an eartag would obscure an official tattoo, may have the official eartag attached to a durable neck strap that can only be removed by cutting the strap or the eartag and which must accommodate the expected growth of the animal. When a neck strap is used in this manner to identify sexually intact animals not in slaughter channels, these animals must be identified with a second form of official identification, such as an official tattoo in the tail fold.

- b. Allowed official identification methods and restrictions on their use:

- 1) Permanent brands and ear notches, registered with an official brand registry, are allowed for the official identification of sheep and goats allowed to move with group-lot identification by 9 CFR 79.3 when accompanied by:
  - a) A brand inspection certificate and an owner statement dated within 30 days, stating that the animals were born in and have resided throughout their lives in low-risk commercial flocks, and

- b) A veterinarian's statement issued within 12 months of the movement indicating that the flock of origin identified in the owner statement was inspected and met the requirements of a low-risk commercial flock on the date of issuance.
- 2) Registration tattoos, recorded in the book of record of a sheep or goat registry, may be used to officially identify sheep or goats required to be individually identified by 9 CFR 79.3 moving without a transfer of ownership or for sale, where an application for transfer of registration is completed and accompanies the animal when it leaves the sale or premises of origin if:
    - a) The association registry premises or flock tattoo prefix has been linked in the National Scrapie Database to the APHIS-assigned premises identification number and flock ID number of the flock of birth, and documentation of such accompanies the animal or the breed registry has agreed to assist APHIS in the tracing of scrapie-positive and scrapie-exposed animals;
    - b) The tattoo is legible; and
    - c) The animal is accompanied by:
      - A copy of the registration certificate, and, if not in the name of the current owner, a copy of the application for transfer of ownership in the name of the current owner where the sale occurred within 60 days, or
      - A certificate of veterinary inspection that lists the flocks of origin and birth, the registry, and the registry tattoo.
  - 3) Official flock identification tattoos, a combination of the flock identification number assigned to the flock of birth or origin in the Scrapie National Database and an individual number unique within the flock, may be used to officially identify sheep or goats required to be individually identified by 9 CFR 79.3 if:
    - a) The tattoo is legible.
    - b) The animals are not in slaughter channels or moving through a

concentration point where a transfer of ownership may occur, such as a livestock market or buying station; and

- c) The animals are accompanied by an owner/hauler statement that contains the information needed to officially identify the animals to their flock of origin and, when required, their flock of birth;
- d) The numbers are placed in different ears or in the same ear with the flock identification number above the individual number, or, in the case of animals with absent or injured ears, the tail fold.

c. Electronic implantable identification (EID)

- 1) Registered sheep or goats and animals from flocks listed in the National Scrapie Database required to be individually identified by 9 CFR 79.3, may be identified with an EID if:
  - a) The implant is placed between the skin and the cartilage of the back side of the ear near where the ear joins the head or between the skin and the bone of the tail near the base of the tail;
  - b) The animal is tattooed with a legible “E” if the implant is at the base of the ear, or “ET” if the implant is in the tail fold;
  - c) The tattoo is at least 0.3 inches high in the ear or, in the case of earless animals, the tail fold;
  - d) The animal is not in slaughter channels or moving through a concentration point where a transfer of ownership will occur, such as a livestock market or buying station, excluding sales of registered animals where an application for transfer of registration is completed and accompanies the animal when it leaves the sale or premises of origin.
  - e) For registered animals:
    - The electronic implant number has been recorded in the book of record of a sheep or goat registry association and on the registration certificate;
    - The animal is accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate. If the registration certificate is not in the name of

the current owner, supply a copy of the application for transfer of ownership where the sale occurred within 60 days.

- f) For animals from flocks listed in the National Scrapie Database (which may also be used for registered animals that originate from flocks listed in the National Scrapie Database):
- The animal is legibly tattooed with the flock identification number in the ear, or, in the case of earless animals, the tail fold;
  - The animal is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection or, if a certificate of veterinary inspection is not otherwise required, an owner/hauler statement that lists the flock of origin, the flock ID number, the electronic implant number, and, if required by 9 CFR, the flock of birth.
- g) The animal is accompanied by an implant reader that can read the implant in the animal and is made available for use by APHIS or State authorities to verify the implant number in the animal;
- h) The movement is either for exhibition purposes or other movement without change in ownership, or for change in ownership that includes transfer of the registration papers, or for change in ownership that may not include transfer of registration papers but is directly to a flock listed in the National Scrapie Database and the animal is tattooed as required in paragraph f) of this section and where the new owner has a reader that can read the implant in the animal;
- i) The implant is used in accordance with other applicable laws and regulations; and
- j) The implant complies with ISO 11784 and ISO 11785, or has been approved as a new device type as described above, and the device was approved under 9 CFR 79.2(k). The implant number must be an Animal Identification Number (840) issued to the flock of origin in the AIMS module of the National Scrapie Database; or

applied to the animal before March 11, 2015.

- d. Animals may be identified with any other official identification method or device approved by the Administrator for particular circumstances.

### **Reclassification Procedures**

The proposed rule also states in 9 CFR 79.2(b) that “A reclassification investigation as defined in § 79.1 may be conducted to determine whether the current designated status of a flock or animal may be changed or removed. Reclassification investigations will be initiated and conducted, and redesignation decisions will be made in accordance with procedures approved by the Administrator. These procedures are available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>.”

The proposed reclassification and redesignation procedures are as follows:

(b) Redesignation. A reclassification investigation as defined in 9 CFR 79.1 may be conducted or directed by the designated scrapie epidemiologist (DSE), a Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology, or the National Scrapie Program Coordinator to determine whether the current designated status of a flock or animal may be changed or removed as follows:

Who may redesignate	Animals that may be redesignated	Conditions for redesignation	New designation
DSE	High-risk animal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Necropsy testing was done, including official testing of obex and lymph node or tonsil; and no PrPsc (prion protein scrapie) was detected; or</li> <li>2. A determination that the animal meets the definition of a low-risk exposed animal; or</li> <li>3. The animal's high-risk status is waived in accordance with 9 CFR 79.7(a)(1) for animals in an approved Scrapie Control Pilot Project.</li> </ol>	Low-risk exposed animal
DSE	High-risk animal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The animal meets the definition of a genetically resistant or less susceptible exposed sheep and there are no additional risk factors that would preclude redesignation; or</li> <li>2. The animal's high-risk status is waived in accordance with 9 CFR 79.7(a)(1) for animals in an approved Scrapie Control Pilot Project.</li> </ol>	Genetically resistant exposed sheep or genetically less susceptible exposed sheep
DSE	Live suspect animal that was classified suspect based on clinical signs of scrapie	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tested with an official live animal scrapie test with no PrPsc detected or there was insufficient follicles to conduct a valid test; and</li> <li>2. The live animal no longer exhibits clinical signs, or it was determined that the</li> </ol>	No designation

		signs were not caused by scrapie.	
DSE	Live suspect animal classified suspect based on an unofficial live animal test	1. Tested with an official live animal scrapie test with no PrPsc detected; and 2. The live animal did not or no longer exhibits clinical signs, or it was determined that the signs were not caused by scrapie.	No designation
DSE	Dead suspect animal	1. The animal was unavailable for testing and a reclassification investigation showed the animal was not likely to have been infected; or 2. No PrPsc detected results from necropsy testing which included official testing of obex and lymph node or tonsil.	No designation
DSE	Exposed flock (including those that are also a noncompliant flock) or flock under investigation	1. The flock has successfully completed a Post Exposure Management and Monitoring Plan (PEMMP) following the exposure; or 2. A flock reclassification investigation shows the flock is not likely to be infected and all high-risk animals have been removed. <sup>1</sup>	No designation
DSE	Exposed flock or flock under investigation	A flock reclassification investigation shows the flock to be infected or source.	Infected or source flock
DSE	Exposed flock or flock under investigation	A flock reclassification investigation could not be conducted because the owner did not provide the necessary records or did not make the selected animals available for test within 60 days of becoming test eligible.	Noncompliant and exposed flock

Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology, or the National Scrapie Program Coordinator	Infected flock or source flock or a flock pending designation as a source or infected flock	The Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology for the States involved or the National Scrapie Program Coordinator may authorize a DSE to conduct a classification or reclassification investigation of a source or infected flock or a flock pending designation as a source or infected flock. If the reclassification investigation reveals based on epidemiology or testing <sup>2</sup> in the flock that the flock is not an infected or source flock, it may be redesignated or not designated.	No designation unless female genetically susceptible exposed animals have been retained in which case the flock is an exposed flock
DSE	Noncompliant flock	The flock has complied with any pending required testing or no longer meets the definition of a noncompliant flock.	Former flock designation, or new flock designation if indicated by test results.
DSE	Exposed animal, exposed flock, or infected flock	An epidemiological investigation determines the exposure was limited to a scrapie-positive male animal not born in the flock, and the owner has adequate records and animal identification to show the scrapie-positive male animal was acquired from outside the flock.	No designation

<sup>1</sup> However, if the owner fails to make his or her records available when requested or make animals available for testing within 60 days of notification, within 60 days of becoming test eligible, or as mutually agreed or fails to submit required postmortem samples, the DSE shall redesignate the flock as a noncompliant flock.

<sup>2</sup> The DSE will select all exposed sheep for scrapie susceptibility genotyping. All genetically susceptible exposed animals will be tested for scrapie unless a 95 percent confidence of detecting scrapie at a prevalence of 1 percent can be achieved by testing fewer animals. In this situation, the DSE will preferentially select those animals at greatest risk of being scrapie infected. If there are insufficient genetically susceptible exposed animals to provide this level of

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confidence with live animal testing, those animals that cannot be tested using a live animal test or that do not give a valid result will be selected for necropsy testing. If 95 percent confidence at a prevalence of 1 percent cannot be achieved in this manner, the DSE may require necropsy testing of all genetically susceptible exposed animals.

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More detailed instructions on reclassification and redesignation for APHIS and State personnel are available in draft form in the Scrapie Program Standards, Volume 1: National Scrapie Eradication Program which is posted at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie> . We are also requesting comment on this document which will be finalized concurrent with the rule.

### **Use of Program Approved Tests for Scrapie and Scrapie Susceptibility**

The proposed rule also states: “We propose to change the section title of 9 CFR 54.10 to read ‘Program approval of tests for scrapie’ to clarify that the section concerns how tests are approved for program use, and is not a list of tests. We propose to change a sentence that states that specific guidance on the use of approved tests ‘will be added to this part as tests are approved and will also be contained in the Scrapie Eradication **Uniform Methods & Rules** and the Scrapie Flock Certification Program standards.” We would change this to read “will be made available on the scrapie Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>.’ This change would allow APHIS to respond more quickly to advances in science and in scrapie testing specifically. For major changes to how tests are used within the scrapie program, we would publish a notice in the Federal Register describing the proposed change and solicit public comments on the change. We would then issue a second notice discussing the comments and informing the public of our decision regarding the change. For the addition of guidance for a new test used for purposes similar to an existing test, or for minor changes, updates, or clarifications, we would post notice of the change prominently on the scrapie Web site. We would also provide email notification to State cooperators and other stakeholders through GovDelivery, a free email subscription service. To subscribe to this free service go to

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new> and select “Animal Health - Sheep and Goats” and “Federal Register Publications – Notices Regarding Animal Health”.

Specific guidance on the use of approved tests is available in draft form in the Scrapie Program Standards, Volume 1: National Scrapie Eradication Program, posted at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie> .

### **Indemnity Payment Calculation Procedures**

The proposed rule also states in 9 CFR 54.6 that “To calculate indemnity, APHIS will use price information provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) or other available price information and any other data necessary to establish the value of different types of sheep and goats. A detailed description of the methods APHIS uses to calculate indemnity for sheep and goats is available at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie/.](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie/)”

The proposed methods to calculate indemnity are as follows.

#### **Amount of indemnity payments**

- a. **Federal indemnity.** Indemnity paid for sheep and goats (9 CFR 54.3 to 9 CFR 54.6) will be set as follows.
  - 1) ***Sheep and goat classes covered by price reports.*** Indemnity paid for sheep or goats will be based on available price report data that most accurately reflect the type of animal being indemnified and the time at which the animal was indemnified. To calculate indemnity, APHIS may use price information provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) or other available price information for animals sold during the calendar month before the calendar month in which APHIS offers to pay an owner; ***except that***, if an applicable price report is not available during any period for any class, APHIS will use the price established for animals for the most recent month for which

price information was available. For categories for which price reports are discontinued or have remained unavailable for more than 3 months, the Administrator may establish an alternate method for calculating indemnity. The following report categories will be used in calculating the indemnity that may be paid:

- a) Slaughter lamb per pound;
- b) Slaughter ewe per pound;
- c) Commercial ewe lamb replacement price per pound;
- d) Commercial yearling ewe replacement price per head;
- e) Commercial running age (young and middle age) ewe price per head;
- f) Aged ewe price per head;
- g) Slaughter kids per pound;
- h) Slaughter does/nannies per pound;
- i) Slaughter bucks/billies per pound; and
- j) Replacement does/nannies per pound.

2) ***Other classes of sheep or goats.*** When the animals to be indemnified are goats or sheep that fall outside the classes covered elsewhere in this paragraph such as club lambs or kids, or if the animals entered the flock through purchase, the Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist may take into consideration the producer's purchase records and sales records for the preceding 12 to 24 months or, in the case of purchased animals, records showing the purchase price of the animal in determining the indemnity amount. The indemnity will not exceed the maximum indemnity calculated for a registered animal of the same species and age in accordance with this section. In cases where the owner can show that a class of animals increased in value rather than decreased in value after age 2, as may be the case with rams bred for their horns, the animals in the classes over 2 years may be counted as animals over 1 year and under 2 years of age for indemnity purposes. For purchased animals the price will be adjusted for the animal's current age if the purchase was more than 12 months before indemnity is offered.

3) ***Calculating indemnity.*** For animals under 1 year of age, the owner may be

indemnified for the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(a)* or *a(1)(g)* of this section for sheep and goats respectively times the greater of 50 pounds or the actual weight of the animal as determined at a public scale, or an estimate made using a weight tape or other method acceptable to the owner and APHIS; ***except that***, for females under 1 year of age not in slaughter channels when indemnity was offered, the indemnity will equal the per-pound price from paragraph *a(1)(c)* or *a(1)(j)* of this section for sheep and goats respectively if that price is higher. For sexually intact sheep at least 1 year of age and under 2 years of age, the indemnity will equal the greater of the price per head from paragraph *a(1)(d)* of this section, or the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(b)* of this section times the average mature slaughter weight as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). For sexually intact sheep at least 2 years of age and under 6 years of age, the basic indemnity will equal the greater of the price per head from paragraph *a(1)(e)* of this section or the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(b)* of this section times the average mature slaughter weight as reported by NASS. For sexually intact sheep at least 6 years of age and under 8 years of age, the basic indemnity will equal the greater of the price per head from paragraph *a(1)(f)* of this section or the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(b)* of this section times the average mature slaughter weight as reported by NASS. For sexually intact sheep 8 years of age or older and castrated animals 1 year of age or older, the basic indemnity will equal the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(b)* of this section times the average mature slaughter weight as reported by NASS. For goats over 1 year of age that are castrated or that were in slaughter channels at the time indemnity was offered, the owner may be indemnified for the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(h)* or *(i)* as applicable times the actual weight determined at a public scale or a weight estimate made using a weight tape or other method acceptable to the owner and APHIS. For sexually intact goats over 1 year of age not in slaughter channels at the time indemnity is offered the owner may be indemnified for the price per pound from paragraph *a(1)(h)* or *(i)* as applicable or the price from *(a)(1)(j)*,

whichever is more, times the actual weight determined at a public scale or a weight estimate made using a weight tape or other method acceptable to the owner and APHIS.

- 4) ***Premiums in addition to basic indemnity.*** A premium will be added to the basic indemnity for certain animals as described in this paragraph; ***except that***, no premium will be added for animals of any age that were in slaughter channels when indemnity was offered.
  - a) ***Premium for registered animals and flock sires.*** A premium will be added for each registered animal, equal to \$100 for each registered animal under 1 year of age, \$200 for each registered animal at least 1 year of age and under 4 years of age, and \$100 for each registered animal at least 4 years of age and under 10 years of age. An additional \$50 premium will be added to the basic indemnity for each flock sire. The owner must provide adequate records to qualify for these premiums. Any animal owned by the current owner for less than 12 months and not registered to the current owner at the time indemnity is first offered, but eligible to be registered in the current owner's name, will receive the registered animal premium reduced by \$50.
  - b) ***Premium for pregnant animals.*** For animals in late pregnancy, the owner may be indemnified for three-fourths of the price of the potential offspring's value in paragraphs *a(2)*, *a(3)* or *a(4)(a)* of this section for a 50-pound lamb or kid as applicable depending on the type of offspring (i.e., registerable or not) the animal would produce. A female animal will be considered to be in late pregnancy if it was exposed to a ram and has udder development associated with impending lactation. To estimate the number of offspring the animal is likely carrying, the documented weaned-offspring rate for the flock's previous year will be used to calculate the average number of fetuses being carried by each of the pregnant animals; however, if this number is unknown, the national average of lambs born per ewe from NASS will be used. The calculated weaned-offspring rate will be determined by dividing the number of

offspring weaned by the total number of females exposed to a breeding male. A 1:1 ratio of male to female offspring will be assumed for calculating the average value of each lamb. Females not made available for inventory, assessment of late gestational status, and testing within 30 days of first notice will not qualify for the premium; *except that*, the Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology or the National Scrapie Program Coordinator may grant an extension when severe weather or other conditions beyond the owner's control prevent timely evaluation. Offspring born within 60 days after a written offer of indemnity will be indemnified at three-fourths of the 50-pound lamb or kid price as applicable calculated in accordance with paragraphs *a(2)*, *a(3)* or *a(4)(a)* in lieu of receiving the late gestation premium for the dam. Offspring born more than 60 days after a written offer of indemnity will not be indemnified unless the Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology or the National Scrapie Program Coordinator determines that severe weather or other conditions beyond the owner's control prevent the timely removal of the animals. In such cases the DSE will provide a written justification for granting an extension to the Sheep and Goat Health Specialist for Epidemiology for consideration. Offspring born after the initial inventory and before completion of the flock plan must be inventoried at the time of removal or 60 days after the indemnity offer, whichever occurs first to document the animals eligible for indemnity.

c) ***Calculating Late Gestational Premium***

- Determine which ewes are in late gestation. A "late gestation ewe" has been exposed to a ram at least 2 months before the date indemnity was first offered, and there is visual evidence of pregnancy. Visual evidence of third trimester pregnancy, which must be present within 30 days of when indemnity is first offered, is marked udder development, enlargement and relaxation of the vulva, and relaxation of the pelvic ligaments on inspection.
- To calculate the average number of lambs being carried by the

indemnified, pregnant ewes, use the documented annual weaned lamb rate for the flock's previous year:

- o Number of lambs weaned/number of ewes exposed to a ram= annual weaned lamb rate.
- o If the data needed to calculate the rate are unknown, use the current national lambing average as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- To calculate the value of a pregnancy:
  - o Using the scrapie indemnity calculator current when indemnity is offered, find the value of both a male and a female lamb weighing 50 pounds for the appropriate type (registration-eligible, nonregistered, or club lamb/kid).
  - o The value of the club lamb/kid price cannot exceed the registration-eligible lamb/kid price as applicable.
  - o The value for a registration-eligible lamb is the registered price less \$50.
  - o Then, calculate the average male and female value:
    - i.  $(\text{male 50-pound lamb value} + \text{female 50-pound lamb value}) / 2 = \text{averaged male and female value.}$
    - ii. Since the gender of the lamb that would be produced is unknown, a 1:1 male-to-female ratio is assumed.
- Calculate the gestational premium as follows:
  - o  $0.75(\text{averaged male and female value})(\text{annual weaned lamb rate}) = \text{gestational premium.}$
- Add the gestational premium to the indemnity value of each ewe determined to be in late gestation. Do not add the gestational premium value to the value of other ewes.
- If a dam eligible for the gestational premium when indemnity was first offered gives birth before removal, indemnity will be calculated for the live offspring as described below, and a gestational premium will not be paid for that ewe.

- o Using the scrapie indemnity calculator current when indemnity is offered, find the dollar value of a 50-pound lamb based on gender and type of lamb for which indemnity is being calculated.
  - o Multiply the dollar value by 75 percent (0.75).
- d) ***Premium for early maturing ewes.*** For early maturing ewes, which include ewes that are bred starting at 7 months of age to lamb at 12-14 months, the owner may be indemnified for the price of a yearling ewe in *a(3)* if the ewe lamb is over 7 months of age and born in a flock where at least 65 percent of the ewe lambs produced viable lambs at under 14 months during the preceding breeding season. To show that these conditions have been met, the producer must provide records for the preceding lamb crop, including:
- The number of ewe lambs,
  - The number exposed to a ram at less than 9 months of age, and
  - The number that lambed before 14 months of age.
- Also, any ewe lamb or doe kid with a lamb or kid at her side or that meets the requirements for a late pregnancy animal will be considered a yearling.