

Sheep and Goat Health Operational Plan

Fiscal Year 2018

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services

Veterinary Services (VS) Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS) protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's sheep and goats by preventing, controlling and/or eliminating sheep and goat diseases, conducting surveillance and monitoring, and promoting sheep and goat health. The SPRS Sheep and Goat Health Program also works in partnership with VS' National Import Export Services (NIES) and Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS) to provide comprehensive sheep and goat health services to the sector.

Objective 1: Eradicate classical scrapie from the United States.

Activity 1.1: Rapidly and efficiently identify scrapie-infected animals and flocks by conducting epidemiological investigations of suspect and positive animals, depopulating with indemnity when appropriate, and completing flock plans within 60 days of detection.

Activity 1.2 (a): Publish a final rule to amend title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Parts 54 and 79 and revised Program Standards. This rule will result in a more flexible approach to disease investigations and affected flock management and enhance traceability in goats by making goat identification and recordkeeping requirements consistent with those for sheep.

Activity 1.2 (b): Complete a robust public education campaign about the final rule after its publication.

Activity 1.3 (a): Conduct at least four reviews to monitor States for scrapie consistent State status.

Activity 1.3 (b): Correct inconsistencies with 9 CFR 79.6.

Activity 1.3 (c): Identify ways to improve program implementation.

Activity 1.4 (a): Maintain traceability of scrapie-positive animals identified through slaughter surveillance to their flock-of-origin at ≥ 95 percent. Identify States that are not meeting identification compliance goals and work with local VS and State personnel to develop action plans to address these issues.

Activity 1.4 (b): Coordinate with animal disease traceability staff to develop sheep and goat tag tracing exercises for field personnel, including animal identification coordinators, and to correct any inefficiencies or deficiencies identified.

Activity 1.5: Continue to provide metal or other low cost official tags to producers and allied industry at no cost. Work with industry on other options for maintaining traceability of sheep and goats.

Objective 2: Conduct comprehensive disease and health monitoring and surveillance.

Activity 2.1(a): Coordinate with STAS Surveillance Design and Analysis staff to complete the evaluation of scrapie surveillance activities.

Activity 2.1 (b): Utilize the evaluation findings to revise the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan and implement the plan.

Activity 2.2: Engage internal and external stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft Sheep and Goat Comprehensive and Integrated Surveillance Plan. Revise the plan as needed based on the input received from stakeholders and post it to the VS Sheep and Goat Health website.

Activity 2.3: Assist in the planning for the National Animal Health Monitoring System 2019 goat study.

Objective 3: Prepare for and respond to high consequence sheep and/or goat diseases that threaten the sheep and/or goat population, industry, or public health.

Activity 3.1: Draft a preparedness and response plan (including business continuity plans) for foreign animal diseases (FADs) and emerging diseases (EDs) in sheep and goats with input from industry. Identify and prioritize materials that need to be developed specifically for the sheep and goat industries to supplement existing Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP) documents.

Activity 3.2: Contribute to VS' implementation of the Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan and the U.S. National List of Reportable Animal Diseases Framework.

Activity 3.3: Monitor and oversee Animal Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) FY 2016 and FY 2017 cooperative agreements that fund Minor Use Animal Drug Program (NRSP-7) projects. This agreement supports work to increase the availability of drugs and therapeutics for minor species, while ensuring the judicious use of antibiotics in food and fiber animals. The cooperator will continue to perform work under both of these agreements in FY 2018.

Activity 3.4: Develop a policy for testing, classification, and management of sheep and goats that test nonnegative or suspect on a brucellosis test or that respond to a TB test.

Activity 3.5: Participate in the Agriculture Response Management and Resources Foot-and-Mouth Disease exercise to identify and develop policies and processes that may be needed in the event of a FAD or ED outbreak affecting sheep or goats.

Activity 3.6: Publish a draft coxiellosis response plan for comment and finalize the plan.

Objective 4: Conduct education and outreach to provide science-based sheep and goat health and disease information to decision makers and stakeholders and provide training.

Activity 4.1: Oversee APHIS' FY 2017 cooperative agreements with American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and American Goat Federation (AGF) to provide outreach on scrapie and coxiellosis.

Activity 4.2: Maintain the Sheep and Goat Health APHIS webpage, including publishing and announcing availability of the FY 2017 annual and FY 2018 monthly National Scrapie Eradication Program reports.

Activity 4.3: Participate in select stakeholder meetings to share information and/or training, including:

- ASI and AGF joint annual meeting; San Antonio, Texas; January 30-February 2, 2018.
- Annual American Dairy Goat Association and American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners' joint annual meeting; Atlanta, Georgia; October 27 to 30, 2017.
- Annual Sheep and Goat Sector Meeting with APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea, Washington DC, September 2018.
- U.S. Animal Health Association; Kansas City, Missouri; October 18-24, 2018.

Activity 4.4: Continue outreach and collaboration with industry, States, and other agencies on sheep and goat diseases of concern.

Activity 4.5: Collaborate with industry to identify ways to enhance on-farm biosecurity and encourage development of individual biosecurity plans.

Activity 4.6: Deliver training to internal and external stakeholders.

- Deliver scrapie and other sheep and goat focused training in SPRS District 5 for State and Federal animal health personnel. Provide quarterly webinars for State and Federal animal health personnel.
- Provide instruction to veterinary students about scrapie and chronic wasting disease, and assist in sample collection laboratories.
- Coordinate with the National Veterinary Accreditation Program to provide educational materials about scrapie surveillance, identification, and other sheep and goat topics to accredited veterinarians.

Objective 5: Facilitate trade.

Activity 5.1: Assist NIES to publish and implement a final rule to revise the conditions for the importation of live sheep, goats, and certain other non-bovine ruminants, as well as germplasm and products derived from sheep and goats, with regard to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, such as scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Activity 5.2: Assist NIES in implementing procedures to maintain the traceability of animals derived from semen imports and embryo imports.