

What Producers Need To Know About Scrapie

What Is Scrapie?

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is in the same class of diseases as bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and chronic wasting disease in elk and deer. There is no cure or treatment for scrapie. Since 1947, when scrapie was first diagnosed in the United States, more than 90 percent of all cases have occurred in black-faced sheep (primarily in the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds). However, scrapie can infect all breeds of sheep, as well as goats. Most cases of goat scrapie have been related to goats coming in contact with infected sheep. Disease transmission occurs primarily from an infected female to her offspring and other lambs or kids exposed to the birth fluids, placenta, or bedding soiled by the birth fluids. Male sheep and goats can contract scrapie but cannot spread the disease.

What Signs Should I Look For?

Clinical signs of scrapie include:

- Weight loss despite a healthy appetite,
- Increased sensitivity to noise/motion,
- High-stepping gait of the forelimbs,
- Bunny-hop movement of the rear limbs,
- Swaying of the back end,
- Loss of coordination,
- Biting at legs or side,
- Behavioral changes,
- Intense rubbing that results in wool loss,
- Wool pulling,
- Tremors,
- Lip smacking,
- Weakness (may be unable to stand), and
- Death.

These symptoms may be confused with pregnancy toxemia, lice, mites, brain abscesses or tumors, trauma, pneumonia, toxins, rabies, and pseudorabies.

What Is Required?

The National Scrapie Eradication Program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is a mandatory program that began in 2001 and requires participation by all sheep and goat producers. Producers must follow Federal and State regulations for officially identifying their sheep and goats. In Alabama, sheep and goats must be identified with an eartag or tattoo prior to selling them or transporting them from their place of birth. Records of tags or other official identification applied, sales, and acquisitions must be kept for 5 years. White plastic eartags and a tag applicator are available free of charge from USDA-APHIS' Veterinary Services office. When you request tags, your flock/herd will be assigned an Alabama Flock/Herd ID number (AL number) that will be printed on the tags. See information at right for other key details about the requirements.

All Sheep and Goats

- Must be identified **before a change of ownership** by any method (private treaty, transport to livestock market, transport to slaughter facility) and **prior to transport across State lines.**
- Must be identified **before transport to a show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.**

Registry Tattoos

- Registered goats that have a legible registry tattoo accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate do not require a scrapie tag if their tattoo is registered as a unique entity with the breed association and USDA-APHIS' Veterinary Services office.

What Else Can I Do To Protect My Animals?

The Scrapie Certification Program (SFCP) is a voluntary program. Producers must submit a specific request in writing to participate. There are two categories within the SFCP: the Export Monitored Category, which can qualify the flock/herd for export out of the United States, and the Select Monitored Category, which has less stringent requirements. The SFCP may be advantageous to purebred sheep and goat producers, club lamb producers, and those producers interested in export.



**Alabama Scrapie Eradication Program
Flock ID Application/Tag Order/Tattoo Registration Form**

For questions about scrapie or ordering your tags,
please call 866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824).

Owner Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Physical Street Address (where sheep/goats are located): _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____, AL Zip: _____

County: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Work Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Adult Goats: _____ Number of Adult Sheep: _____

My goats are identified with a registered tattoo. My tattoo is: _____

Primary Breeds of Sheep and/or Goats: _____

Send me information on the Scrapie Flock Certification Program:

Select Monitored Category

Export Category

Have you ordered Scrapie Eradication Tags previously?

Yes No

If yes, what is your USDA-assigned Flock/Herd ID? _____

If you have been assigned one, what is your

National Premise ID? _____

Number of tags requested:

10 20 40 60 80 100 Other amount _____

Please return this form to the following address:

Animal Industries
1445 Federal Drive, Room 126
Montgomery, AL 36107

Or, you may email or fax this form to:

scrapie@agi.alabama.gov
(334) 240-3793



Learn More

For more information about scrapie, the National Scrapie Eradication Program, or the SFCP, contact:

Dr. Cindy Brasfield
Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist
USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services
1445 Federal Drive
Montgomery, AL 36107
Phone: (866) 873-2824
Fax: (334) 240-3793
Email: cynthia.m.brasfield@aphis.usda.gov

A wealth of information is also available on APHIS' Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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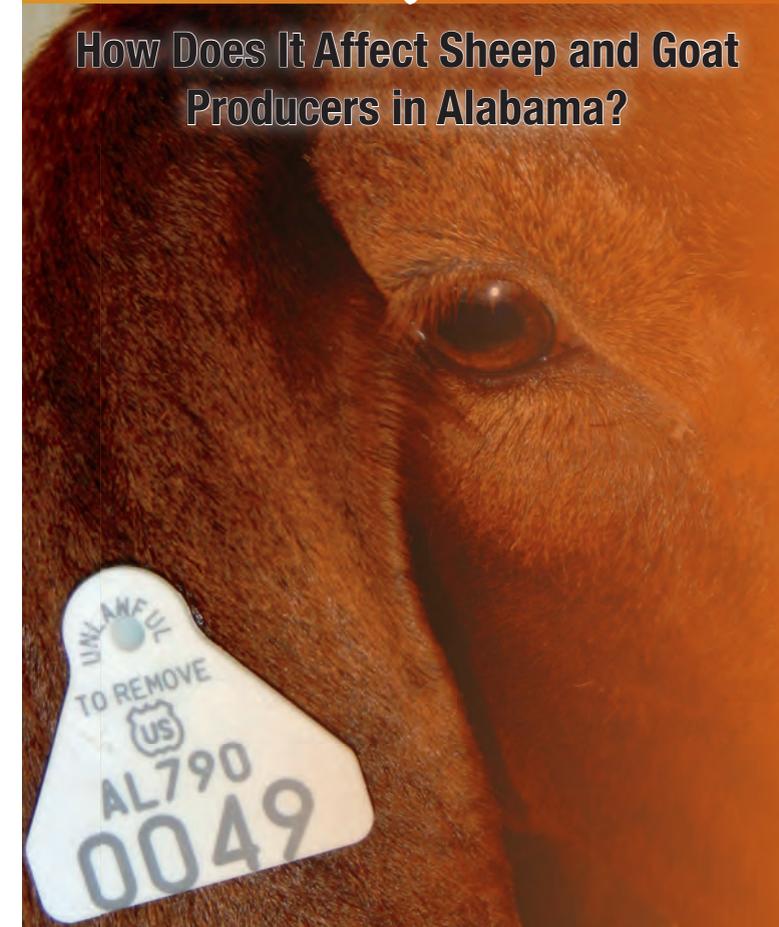
Animal Industries
1445 Federal Drive, Room 126
Montgomery, AL 36107
Phone: (334) 240-7215
Fax: (334) 240-3793



United States Department of Agriculture

SCRAPIE

How Does It Affect Sheep and Goat Producers in Alabama?



ALABAMA

MEAT GOAT & SHEEP PRODUCERS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION