

2 VAC 5-206-10 through 2 VAC 5-206-50
REGULATION FOR SCRAPIE ERADICATION

Pursuant to the authority in Sections 3.1-724 , 3.1-726 and 3.1-730, of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services hereby adopts the Regulation for Scrapie Eradication.

2 VAC 5-206-10 Definitions.

“Accredited Veterinarian” means a veterinarian approved by the United States Department of Agriculture in accordance with 9 CFR Section 160.1 (2002).

“Animal” means any sheep or goat.

“Breeding Sheep and Goats” means any sexually intact sheep or goat that is not moving directly to slaughter, or through slaughter channels to slaughter.

“Consistent State” means a state listed in 9 CFR 79.1 that the USDA Administrator has determined in compliance with 9 CFR 79.6.

“Diagnosis” means a result of an official test indicating a positive result for scrapie.

“Exposed Flock” means any flock in which a scrapie-positive or suspect animal was born or lambed, or any flock into which a scrapie positive or scrapie suspect animal has been introduced.

“Flock or Herd” means all animals maintained on a single premises and all animals under common ownership or supervision on two or more premises with animal interchange between the premises. Changes in ownership of part or all of the flock do not change the identity of the flock or the regulatory requirements applicable to the flock.

“Flock Plan” means a written flock-management agreement signed by (1) the owner of a flock, (2) the accredited veterinarian (if one is employed by the owner), (3) an APHIS representative, and (4) the State Veterinarian, in which each participant agrees to undertake actions specified in the flock plan to control the spread of scrapie from, and eradicate scrapie in, an infected flock or source flock or to reduce the risk of the occurrence of scrapie in a flock that contains a high-risk or an exposed animal. As part of a flock plan, the flock owner must provide the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the requirements of the flock plan.

“Infected Flock” means any flock in which a State or APHIS representative has determined that a scrapie-positive female animal has resided unless an epidemiologic investigation conducted by a State or APHIS representative shows that the animal did not lamb or abort in the flock.

“Low-risk commercial goat” means a low-risk goat from a herd in which animals are moved to slaughter only directly or through slaughter channels or any animal raised only for meat or fiber production and not registered with a sheep or goat registry or used for exhibition.

“Low-risk goat” means a goat that is not a scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk, or exposed animal; that has not been commingled with sheep; and that is from a State in which (1) scrapie has not been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years; (2) scrapie has been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years, but the scrapie-positive goat was not born in the State, resided in the State for less than 72 months, and did not kid while in the State; or, (3) scrapie has been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years and the scrapie-positive goat was commingled with sheep but records allowed a complete epidemiologic investigation to be completed and all resulting infected, source, and exposed goat herds had completed flock plans and were in compliance with post-exposure monitoring and management plans.

“Noncompliant Flock” means (1) Any source or infected flock whose owner declines to enter into a flock plan or post-exposure management and monitoring plan (PEMMP) agreement within 60 days of being so designated or whose owner is not in compliance with either agreement; (2) Any exposed flock whose owner fails to make animals available for testing within 60 days of notification, or as mutually agreed, or whose owner fails to submit required postmortem samples as directed in the PEMMP; (3) Any flock whose owner has misrepresented, or who employs a person who has misrepresented, the scrapie status of an animal or any other information on a certificate, permit, owner statement, or other official document within the last five years; or (4) Any flock whose owner or manager has moved, or who employs a person who has moved, an

animal in violation of 9 CFR Part 79 within the last five years, as determined by the State Veterinarian.

“Official USDA Identification” means identification approved by the USDA/APHIS/VS for the identification of animals, which is so designed as to prevent alteration. This may include tattoo and electronic identification.

“Post exposure management and monitoring plan (PEMMP)” means a written agreement signed by the owner of a flock, any accredited veterinarian employed by the owner, and a State or APHIS representative in which each participant agrees to undertake actions specified in the agreement to reduce the risk of the occurrence of scrapie and to monitor for the occurrence of scrapie in the flock for at least five years after the last high-risk or scrapie-positive animal is removed from the flock or after the last exposure of the flock to a scrapie-positive animal unless the monitoring time is otherwise specified by a State or APHIS representative. As part of a post exposure management and monitoring plan, the flock owner must provide the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the required elements listed in the plan.

“Scrapie” means a non-febrile, transmissible, insidious, degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system, and is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) found in sheep and goats.

“Scrapie Flock Certification Program” means a program, sponsored by the USDA/APHIS/VS, to reduce scrapie occurrence and spread; identify flocks which have been free of evidence of scrapie over a specified time period; and contribute to the eventual eradication of scrapie.

“Scrapie-positive” means an animal that has been diagnosed by USDA-accepted testing methods by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory, or another laboratory designated by the State Veterinarian, to have the disease scrapie.

”Source flock” means a flock in which a State or APHIS representative has determined that at least one animal was born that was diagnosed as scrapie positive at an age of 72 months or less or in which a scrapie-positive animal has resided throughout its life.

“State Veterinarian” means the Virginia State Veterinarian or his representative employed by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

“USDA and USDA/APHIS/VS” means the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services.

2 VAC 5-206-20 Identification of sheep and goats in commerce.

Any sheep or goat born after January 1, 2002 shall be identified to the premises of birth, if not the same as the premises of origin, prior to change of ownership or exhibition.

No person shall apply an official USDA tag or premises identification number or brand or official registry tattoo to an animal that did not originate on the premises to which the number has been officially assigned. No person may remove or tamper with any means of identification required to be on sheep or goats.

Any sheep or goat that is bartered, leased, traded, loaned, sold, exhibited, or otherwise moved from one management to another shall be deemed to have undergone a change of ownership for the purpose of this regulation. The buyer, seller, and any dealer or market operator shall keep a record of all changes of ownership for a minimum of five years. Any sheep or goat that loses its identification, that was applied at its flock/herd of origin for exhibition or change of ownership, shall be identified by the person in control or possession of the animal prior to its commingling with any other animals; and if the flock of origin cannot be determined all possible flocks/herds of origin shall be listed on the record. The buyer, seller, and any dealer or market operator shall be equally responsible for maintaining the required record which shall be made available on request by representatives of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Any out-of-state sheep or goats that are offered for sale in an approved Virginia livestock market that have not previously been identified must be (1) identified with an official USDA tag on arrival and prior to commingling with any other sheep or goats with all information recorded as required for change of ownership or meet the importation requirements; or (2) returned to the state of origin.

Animals required to be officially identified include:

1. All breeding sheep.
2. All sexually intact animals for exhibition. This includes (a) sexually intact registered goats and goats used primarily for milk production, (b) goats that are being moved from one location to another even if there is no change of ownership, and (c) goats that are being sold for breeding or exhibition. It also includes sexually intact goats that have resided on the same premises as sheep and goats that have been exposed to animals that are affected with scrapie.
3. All sheep over 18 months of age.
4. All exposed and high-risk animals including all low-risk exposed animals, genetically susceptible exposed animals, genetically less susceptible exposed animals, and genetically resistant exposed sheep.
5. All suspect and test-positive animals.
6. Animals from noncompliant flocks.

Animals not required to be individually identified include:

1. Slaughter sheep (sheep in slaughter channels) under 18 months (Note: If a sexually intact sheep is sold at an unrestricted sale (any sale that is not a slaughter or feeding for slaughter sale), it must be identified.).
2. Slaughter goats (goats in slaughter channels).
3. Low-risk commercial goats.
4. Castrated goats that have not been exposed to scrapie.

5. Animals shipped directly to an approved slaughter facility.

Registered goat owners that have official tattoos registered with USDA in the Scrapie National Genetic Data Base and carry the registration papers with them to a registered goat sale would not be required to apply tags for exhibition or sale at a registered goat sale.

Any goat or sheep undergoing a change of ownership (including exhibition and/or importation into the state) not having an official identification shall be quarantined until the requirements of this regulation are met.

In order to simplify identification requirements, livestock markets or sale/show managers may require that all animals be identified with official USDA tags.

2 VAC 5-206-30. Importation of Sheep and Goats into Virginia.

No sheep or goat may be imported into Virginia that does not originate from a consistent state, unless originating from a complete monitored scrapie flock or enrolled in the USDA Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). All sheep or goats imported into the state of Virginia must be identified by official USDA tag, legible official goat registry tattoo if accompanied by a registration certificate, or other approved device that contains a premises identification issued by the state of origin in combination with a unique animal number. No sheep or goat that is infected with scrapie, and no offspring of sheep or goat infected with Scrapie, may be moved into Virginia.

Except as stated below, all sheep and goats imported into Virginia must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).

No CVI is required for animals going directly to slaughter.

Animals entering Virginia from a state contiguous with Virginia without change in ownership or management and as a part of normal operating procedures may do so without a CVI.

The CVI for all sheep or goats imported into Virginia shall contain identification numbers for each animal. Acceptable identification includes official USDA ear tags which include the premises identification and a unique animal identification number, legible official goat registration tattoo if accompanied by a registration certificate or any form of identification approved by APHIS for use in the scrapie eradication program. Electronic identification may also be used.

2 VAC 5-206-40. Exhibition of Sheep and Goats.

Sheep and goats entering Virginia for exhibition shall meet all requirements for entry into Virginia.

2 VAC 5-206-50. Scrapie Management.

All known cases of scrapie and any sheep or goat known to originate from a scrapie infected flock or to have had contact with scrapie infected animals or any sheep or goat showing clinical signs of scrapie not known to be caused by some other disease or injury shall be isolated from all

other non-affected animals and reported to the State Veterinarian within twenty-four hours of the isolation.

Upon notification of known cases of scrapie and all suspected cases of scrapie, the flock/herd shall be quarantined, investigated, all animals in the flock/herd individually identified, and a risk analysis conducted. A diagnostic plan shall be developed and reviewed by the State Veterinarian utilizing approved live diagnostic tests and submission of appropriate samples to an approved laboratory for scrapie testing upon the death or destruction of any animals in a flock/herd quarantined for scrapie. All flocks/herds shall remain under quarantine until a determination of the status of the flock/herd is made. All flocks/herds under quarantine shall be examined at least yearly, or more frequently as determined by the State Veterinarian, and an inventory of all animals in the flock/herd recorded with all deaths, sales to slaughter, and destruction accounted for. Upon confirmation of the existence of scrapie in a flock/herd, a thorough epidemiological report of all source flocks and herds and contacts with other animals shall be documented and a risk analysis conducted. Subsequently all source flocks or herds and contacts of all confirmed or high risk scrapie flock/herd shall be quarantined, investigated, all animals in flock/herd individually identified, and a risk analysis conducted.

Scrapie-positive or animals suspected of having scrapie shall be moved only with the approval of the State Veterinarian, for transportation to a USDA approved research facility or for the purpose of destruction.

All known scrapie-infected and source flocks/herds shall be quarantined with movements of animals only (1) to slaughter, (2) to feedlots under permit and quarantine for later movement to slaughter, (3) for destruction, or (4) to a USDA approved research facility. Animals destroyed as a result of this section will be disposed of in a manner approved by the State Veterinarian.

Infected and source flocks may be released from quarantine after completion of a USDA flock/herd plan or in an USDA approved pilot project flock/herd plan that includes the owners agreement to comply with a 5 year post exposure monitoring and management plan. The State

Veterinarian may release any suspected case of scrapie from quarantine when other causes of the symptoms are confirmed and scrapie has not been diagnosed.

Any flock/herd under quarantine that has not had a confirmation of scrapie diagnosis within five years that has followed the flock/herd plan shall be released from quarantine. The State

Veterinarian may release any flock/herd from quarantine based on epidemiological or diagnostic factors.