

I've heard there are two programs.
What are the differences?

The mandatory Scrapie Eradication Program officially identifies all sheep and goats regardless of age; no inspection required. The program requires tamper-resistant identification ear tags (free from USDA to the producer), microchips, or registered tattoos. To order tags, please call 1-866-873-2824

The voluntary Scrapie-Free Certification Program (SFCP) officially identifies all sheep and goats (over 1 year of age); after initial inspection and testing, the enrolled flock is inspected annually; SFCP-enrolled herd owners must purchase approved identification tags that provide "permanent," unique, tamper-evident identification for each animal, or a microchip, or tattoo.

What Rules Must be Followed?

Florida rules 5C-3, Importation of Animals; 5C-4, Admission of Animals for Exhibition; and 5C-29, Scrapie, require that before animals leave the premises, they must be officially identified with a Scrapie identification number (tag, tattoo, or microchip).



WHAT IS SCRAPIE?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



To obtain more information, contact the Office of the State Veterinarian or check our website

State Veterinarian's Office

Telephone: (850) 410-0900

Toll Free: 1-877-815-0034

Fax: (850) 410-0916

24- Hour Reporting: 1-800-342-5869

www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai

Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Division of Animal Industry
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Florida Dairy Goat Association
www.fdga.org

Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida
www.msasheep.com



Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

What is Scrapie?

Scrapie is a chronic, fatal disease of the nervous system of sheep and goats, though it is more common in sheep. It can take up to two years (after infection) for symptoms to appear. There is no treatment or cure.

Does Scrapie Affect Human Beings?

There is no evidence that people who consume sheep or goat meat or milk or who work with sheep and goats are at risk of contracting Scrapie but it is recommended that the meat from positive animals not be used for human consumption.

How Common is Scrapie?

Because of the efforts of the National Scrapie Eradication Program (SEP), the number of infected and source flocks/herds with Scrapie has decreased. In 2014, 21 sheep, 7 goats, and 21 infected flocks were diagnosed with Scrapie. Since it was accidentally introduced into the United States in 1947, the USDA has reported more than 1,600 confirmed Scrapie cases in sheep and 24 cases in goats.

How Do Animals get Scrapie and What are the Symptoms?

The organism that causes the disease is thought to spread from mother to offspring through the placenta and its fluids. The early symptoms are a nervous animal with muscle tremors and a wobbly gait. Symptoms of Scrapie may mimic other nervous conditions (fine tremors, head pressing, and stargazing) so never automatically assume animals have Scrapie. Goats differ from sheep in that the classic sign of intense itching and rubbing is not as common. It takes a long time for symptoms to appear (up to five years); and 1-6 months for them to progress to the point where the animals eventually lay down and die. There is no treatment.



How Do I Know if my Animals Have Scrapie?

Scrapie can be diagnosed by a veterinarian, based on the symptoms, a knowledge of the animal's history, and testing. If an animal has died, microscopic examination of brain tissue can detect the telltale ("sponge-like") abnormalities in the tissue. Producers can call USDA to arrange for sampling of any adult animals that die on the farm.

How Can Scrapie be Prevented?

By genetically testing flocks and herds before being bought to assure that they are Scrapie resistant. The disease may occur in families so siblings and parents of an infected animal should always be tested. Producers may also enroll in the voluntary Scrapie certification program.

What Happens if Animals are Infected?

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's accelerated Scrapie Eradication Program is based on the following three principles:

1. Identification of preclinical animals, by testing live animals, and surveillance and slaughter of those that test positive.
2. Tracing infected animals to their herd of origin.
3. Herd cleanup through the use of genetic-based strategies.

Exposed and infected Scrapie flocks/herds detected under the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program will be provided (through USDA/APHIS) by:

- Live animal testing;
- Compensation for Scrapie suspect, high-risk and positive animals, which have to be euthanized; and
- Testing for animals that have been sold from infected flocks/herds.



What is the Official Identification?

There are three ways to officially identify animals under the Scrapie program: tags, tattoos, or microchips. USDA tags are provided free to producers. Registered animals may be identified with a registration tattoo in lieu of an official ear tag as long as the tattoo is either identical to the herd ID assigned by USDA or the animal is accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate listing the current owner. Producers should check with USDA to ensure their registry is on file. Microchips are accepted if sheep or goats registered with national associations allow their use for official registry identification.

