

# SCRAPIE: ERADICATE IT

The sheep industry's scrapie eradication efforts.



American Sheep  
Industry Association

SEPTEMBER 2021

The goal of the American Sheep Industry Association and the American sheep industry is to eradicate scrapie from our borders. In addition, it is ASI's objective to have the United States recognized as scrapie free in accordance with the World Organization for Animal Health. This publication is created specifically for those of you in the field who are also working to achieve this goal.

This newsletter brings together, into one spot, current information from all 50 states, as well as from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and any other organization providing scrapie news, and reports it back to the field. If you have first-hand accounts that you believe would be relevant for others to read, please email [kyle@sheepusa.org](mailto:kyle@sheepusa.org).

## APHIS Issued Official Scrapie Tag Report in 2021

**T**he U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service issued a report earlier this year showing that the department's changes in recent years to the policy of providing free sheep identification tags has not had a detrimental effect on the goal of identifying sheep in the United States.

In November 2017, APHIS stopped providing free plastic identification tags to stakeholders. Metal tags were still provided at the time. After a variety of changes in the program since that time, APHIS now provides up to 100 plastic tags to new producers only and metal tags to markets and dealers.

The new report includes several findings:

- Policy changes have not decreased the use of official ID by stakeholders;
- A higher number of metal tags were purchased and distributed in FY 2018;
- Increases in privately purchased official ID may be related to policy changes;
- Policy changes may have caused slight fluctuations in official ID sales and distribution in FY 2018 and 2019, but they returned to previous levels in FY 2020;
- Official ID orders increased slightly in FY 2019 and 2020;
- Numbers of orders of metal ID increased as expected based on quantity of metal ID distributed or purchased in FY 2018 and 2019; in FY 2020 number of orders of metal ID decreased while quantity increased, reflecting larger individual orders;
- Numbers of orders of official ID purchased privately are trending upward and may be related to policy changes that decreased the availability of ID free of charge to producers.
- The size of individual orders of official ID made by regulatory officials/markets/dealers has increased since FY 2018.

*For the full report, visit*

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/sheep-goat-ident-report.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/sheep-goat-ident-report.pdf)

*To view the National Scrapie Eradication Program current Monthly Report, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Veterinary Services, go to*  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly\\_scrapie\\_report.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly_scrapie_report.pdf)

## Animals Sampled for Scrapie Testing Sheep and Goats

**In Fiscal Year 2021, as of July 31, 2021**

25,316 animals have been sampled for scrapie testing: 24,043 RSSS and 1,273 on-farm samples  
18,300 sheep and 7,016 goats  
1 sheep tested positive for classical scrapie (sample collected in January 2021)

## Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS) Statistics

**Since April 1, 2003**

692,664 samples collected  
474 NVSL\* confirmed positives for classical scrapie

\*National Veterinary Services Laboratories

**In FY 2021 (as of July 31, 2021)**

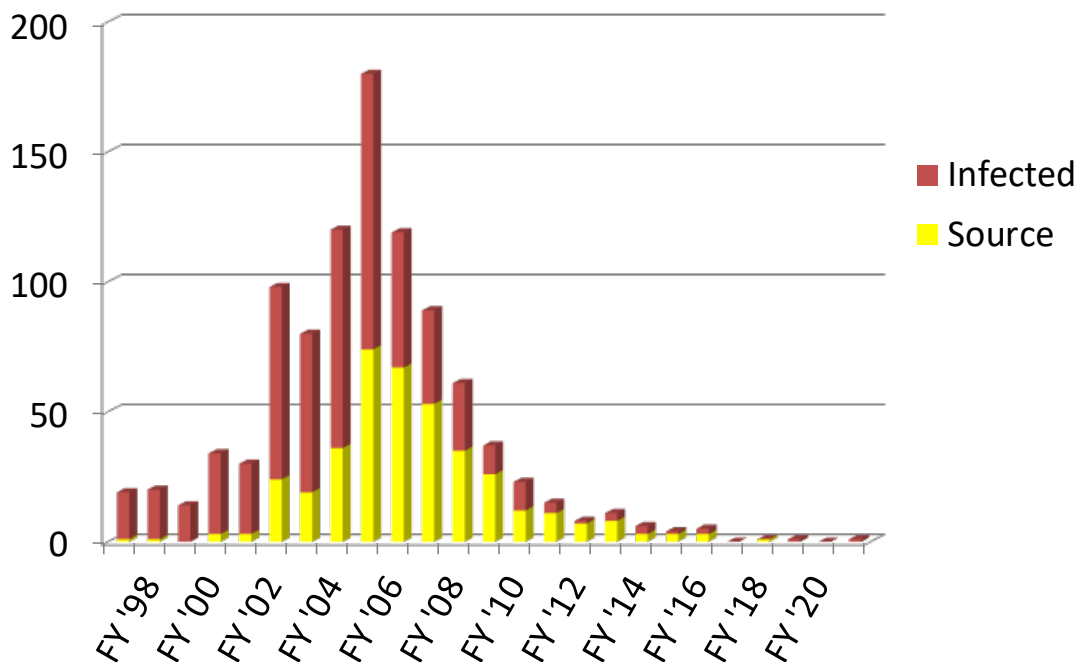
24,043 samples collected (6,411 from goats)  
1 NVSL confirmed positive

## On-Farm Surveillance

**In Fiscal Year 2021, as of July 31, 2021**

1,273 animals have been tested on farm – 668 sheep and 605 goats

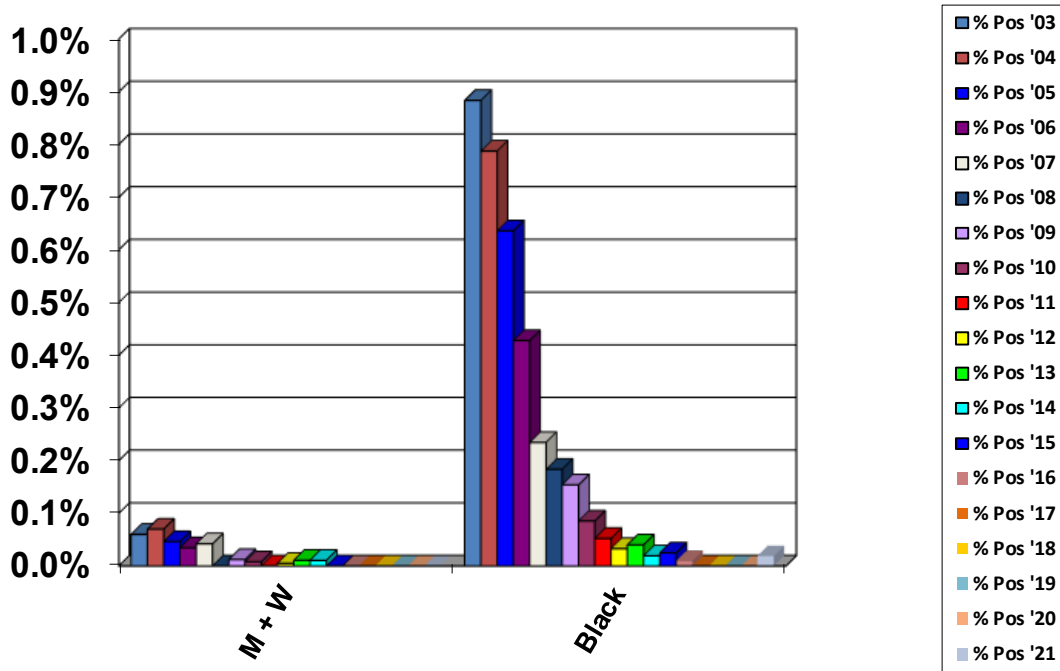
## Infected and Source Flocks New Statuses by Year – Fiscal Years 1997 to 2021\*



\* As of July 31, 2021

# Percent of RSSS Sheep Samples that Tested Positive for Classical Scrapie - By Face Color

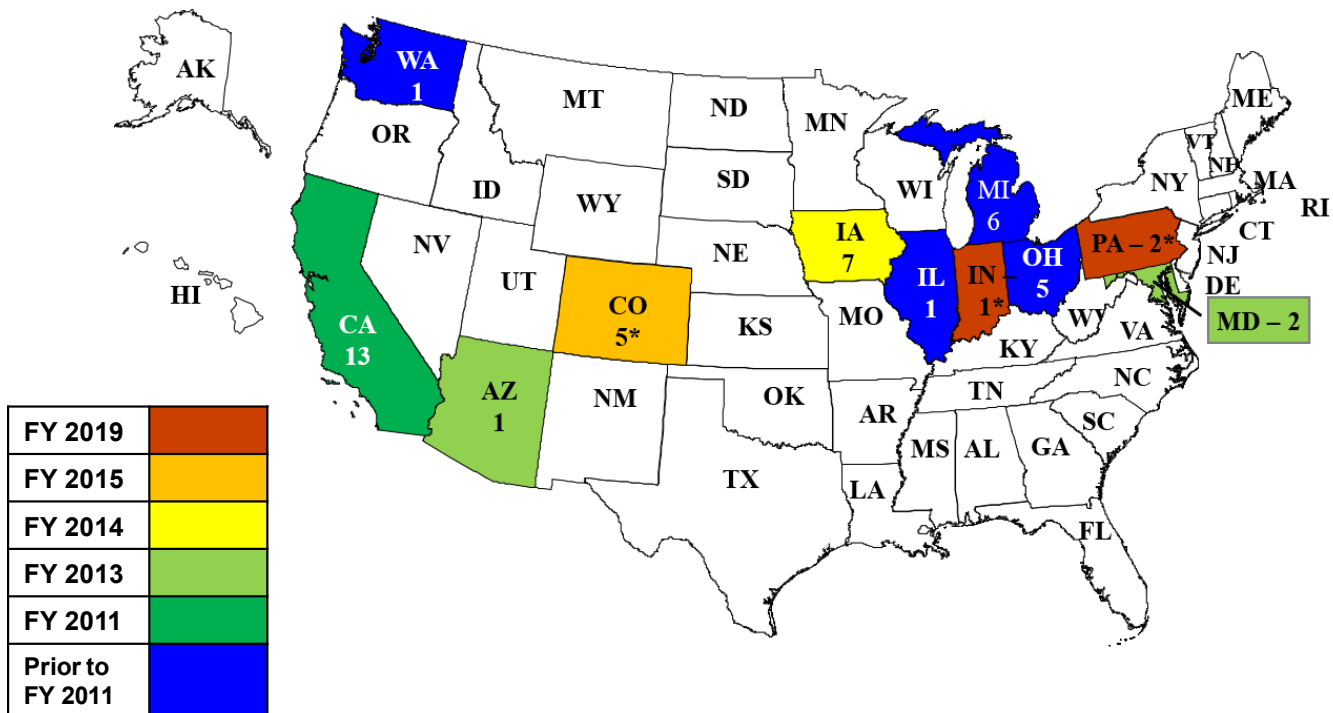
FY 2003 – FY 2021\*



\* As of July 31, 2021. Adjusted to exclude multiple positive animals from same flock. Mottled- and white-faced combined. Does not include Nor98-like scrapie cases found through RSSS.

# Scrapie Cases in Goats

FY 2002 – FY 2021



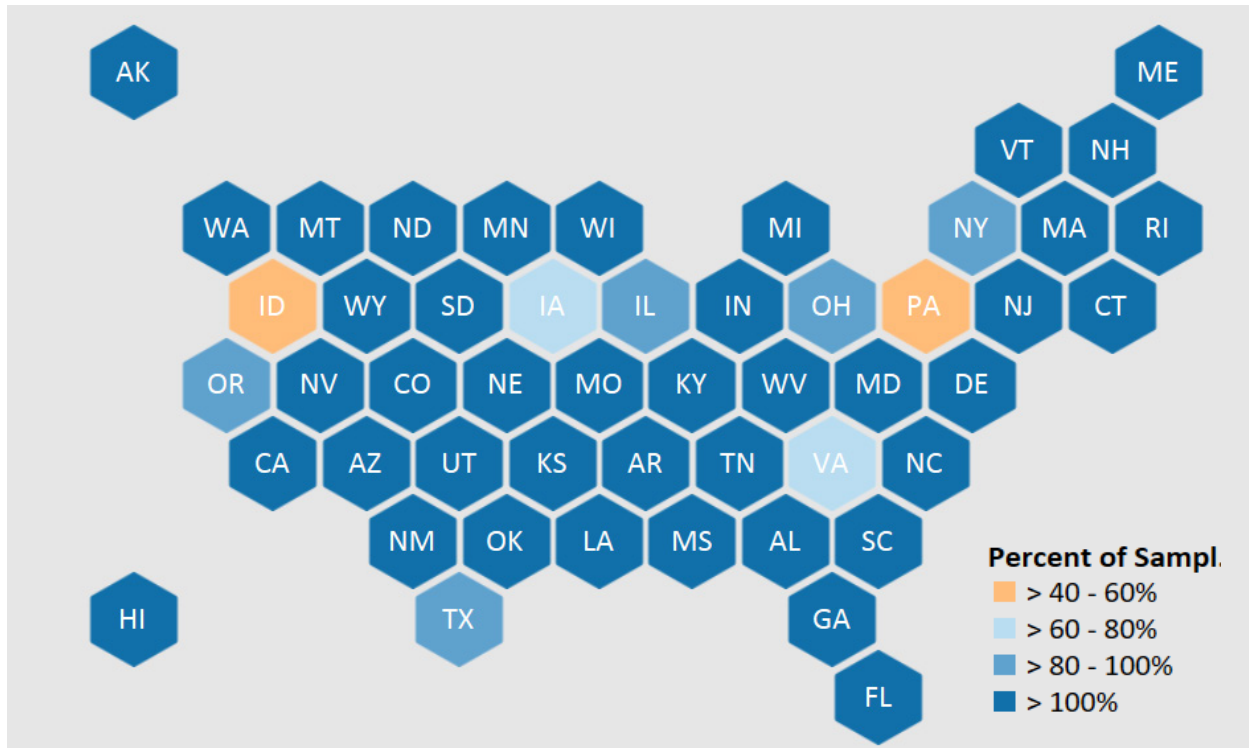
Color code indicates fiscal year of last case by State. 44 NVSL confirmed cases.

\* States with 1 RSSS positive goat; samples collected November 2014, July 2018, and June 2019

## State Sampling Minimums

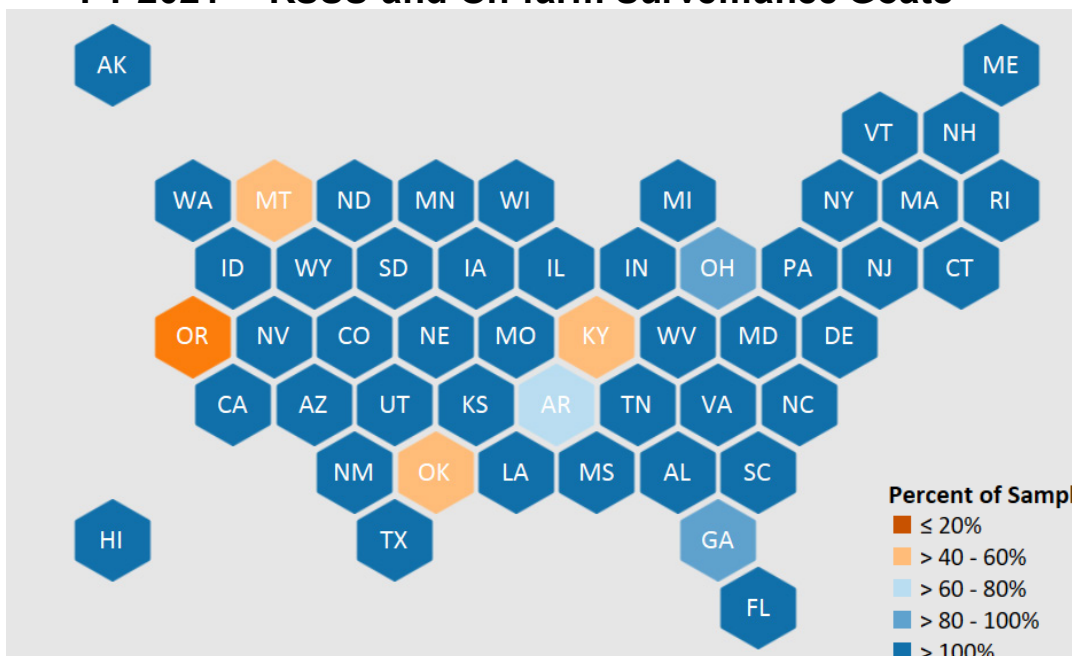
The National Scrapie Eradication Program establishes annual sheep and goat sampling minimums for each state, and tracks the states' level of compliance with meeting these minimums. These state minimums help ensure adequate geographical representation, so that APHIS can find the last remaining cases and document freedom from scrapie. State sampling minimums are established based on the population demographics of mature sheep in each state. The calculations used to derive the sampling minimums are described in the National Scrapie Surveillance Plan. Progress toward meeting these minimums in FY 2021 is shown in the following two slides.

### Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2021\* - RSSS and On-farm Surveillance Sheep



\* As of July 31, 2021. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 82% of the annual sampling minimum.

### Percent of Sampling Minimum Achieved in FY 2021\* - RSSS and On-farm Surveillance Goats




\* As of July 31, 2021. Percentage of sampling minimum achieved is based on 83% of the annual sampling minimum. RI has a sampling minimum of 1, and DE and AK have a sampling minimum of 2.

# RSSS and On-Farm Surveillance Testing by Species

FY 2021\*

| Species     | Type                      | Age Group |               |          | Grand Total |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-------------|
|             |                           | <2 Years  | 2 to <6 Years | 6+ Years |             |
| Goat        | Dairy                     | 42        | 2,268         | 64       | 2,374       |
|             | Fiber                     |           | 32            | 4        | 36          |
|             | Meat                      | 283       | 2,376         | 162      | 2,821       |
|             | Multipurpose              | 80        | 1,088         | 108      | 1,276       |
|             | Unknown                   | 8         | 485           | 16       | 509         |
|             | Total                     |           | 413           | 6,249    | 354         |
| Sheep       | Black Face                | 356       | 4,799         | 804      | 5,959       |
|             | Mottled Face, < 1% Black  | 7         | 844           | 4        | 855         |
|             | Mottled Face, >= 1% Black | 120       | 2,065         | 318      | 2,503       |
|             | White Face                | 259       | 6,190         | 427      | 6,876       |
|             | Other Sheep               | 230       | 1,558         | 140      | 1,928       |
|             | Unknown                   | 39        | 99            | 41       | 179         |
|             | Total                     |           | 1,011         | 15,555   | 1,734       |
| Grand Total |                           | 1,424     | 21,804        | 2,088    | 25,316      |

Number of Records  
4  5,728

\* As of July 31, 2021. Darker shading represents greater number of animals tested that met targeting criteria.

## Submitting Mature Heads

APHIS provides shipping boxes and labels for the submission of heads for scrapie testing at no cost to producers. Many veterinary diagnostic laboratories also accept heads for scrapie testing. To request a box or more information on sample submission, contact the veterinary services field office for your state. State contact information is available at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/contacts/field-operations-districts.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/contacts/field-operations-districts.pdf). VS field offices can also be reached through the toll-free number at 866-873-2824.

## Free ID For Producers

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides up to 100 plastic tags free of charge to producers who have not received the free tags in the past (call 866-USDA-TAG to get tags). Markets are still being provided with free metal tags. Contact your state or local VS office for more information.

## Websites Dedicated to the Eradication of Scrapie

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>

Scrapie SharePoint: <https://share.aphis.usda.gov/sites/vs-sgh/>

(Federal and State employees can access this password-protected site by emailing [sandra.j.wallace@usda.gov](mailto:sandra.j.wallace@usda.gov) if you need assistance.)

