

Scrapie



What it is –

- Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats.
- The disease is caused by an abnormal protein, known as a prion, which acts as the infectious and contagious agent.
- Scrapie is most commonly spread from mother to offspring and/or other lambs in the flock through contact with afterbirth.
- Sheep or goats infected with the disease may exhibit behavioral changes, hyper excitability, have a high-stepping gate, and intense pruritis. These signs progress until the animal dies.
- There is currently no cure or treatment for scrapie.

Scrapie Control –

- South Dakota maintains a Consistent State status with the National Scrapie Eradication Program.
- As part of the program, anyone who owns sheep or goats in South Dakota is required to have a flock identification.
- In addition, all sheep and goats used for breeding, exhibition, or over 18 months of age must be officially identified when they leave the farm and prior to being commingled with sheep or goats from other flocks or herds.
- Official identification is important, making it possible to trace a diseased or exposed animal to its flock of origin where disease control strategies can be implemented.

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National Scrapie Eradication Program –

- Components of the National Scrapie Eradication Program include:
 - Detection of infected sheep or goats through nationwide slaughter surveillance
 - Tracing of infected animals to their flock or herd of origin
 - Quarantine and testing of exposed animals sold from an infected or source flock or herd
 - Voluntary genetic testing of sheep to determine susceptibility to scrapie
- Producers may obtain a flock identification and official scrapie tags by contacting the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services office at 605.224.6186.
- The Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP) is a voluntary program for sheep and goat producers to enhance the marketability of their animals by demonstrating their flock is free from scrapie.
- For more information visit the USDA [Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program \(SFCP\)](#) web site.

Additional Resources:

[Scrapie Pamphlet](#)

[Official SD Scrapie Rules](#)