

7.2 Policy and Principles of Control

Policy Statement 1. The Canadian Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) is a voluntary program, in that producers have a choice whether or not to join the program. However, once participating in the program, compliance with the National Standards is mandatory.

The objective of the SFCP is to provide owners with the opportunity to have their flocks/herds identified as negligible risk with respect to scrapie. Membership in the certification program provides assurances to potential purchasers of animals that a flock/herd is not infected with scrapie. Export certification of scrapie status for countries with higher zoosanitary requirements for scrapie may be based on enrollment and activities under the SFCP. This program also provides a valuable vehicle for surveillance for scrapie within Canada. Any owner of sheep or goat premises who agrees to comply with the SFCP may enroll.

Statutory Authority 2. Scrapie is a reportable disease under the *Reportable Diseases Regulations*, prescribed pursuant to section 2 of the *Health of Animals Act*. Any person suspecting an animal of demonstrating signs consistent with scrapie must report that animal to a federal veterinarian at a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) district office.

3. The primary role of the federal government in the SFCP is to establish the national standards, as detailed in [7.9-Appendix 3](#), and to enforce compliance with these standards.

Principles for Control and Eradication 4. While there are no tests to definitively rule out scrapie in the individual live animal, there are a number of tools that can be used to evaluate the risk of scrapie being present in a sheep flock. These tools have not been established in goats; thus, the only approach to ascertaining the scrapie status in goats is by ongoing herd surveillance. This is achieved by post-mortem testing, the absence of clinical signs, and the prevention of exposure to scrapie over a designated period of time.

There are three different approaches or pathways to follow for a sheep flock to achieve certification status. As with goats, surveillance of mature animals that die, the absence of clinical signs, and the prevention of exposure to scrapie over a designated period of time constitutes the first pathway. A second pathway screens the flock for the presence of scrapie by taking lymphoid follicle samples from the 3rd eyelids of the most genetically susceptible ewes and testing them for scrapie, followed by commencing surveillance of mature animals that die, and preventing exposure to scrapie. The final pathway to certification requires the

selection for genetic resistance for scrapie followed by ongoing surveillance of mature animals that die.

A scrapie suspect is any animal which has scrapie as a differential diagnosis.

A scrapie positive animal is any animal in which **CFIA confirms** the diagnosis of scrapie by applying the current gold standard test to lymphoid or brain tissues. The current gold standard test is immunohistochemistry.