



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE 98-10

subject: Change of Status Date for Flocks Participating in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) Resulting from Owner Reported Acquisition of Lower Status Animals

date: September 17, 1998

to: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Veterinary Medical Officers, VS

Under the new VSFCP Program Standards, the flock status date is based on the last date that lower status animals were acquired or commingled. This may result in frequent changes in the status date for some flocks. In order to maintain accurate information on the VSFCP flock status web page, these changes need to be transmitted to the Scrapie Information System (SIS) database in a timely manner.

Owner-reported changes in flock status date, due to animal acquisitions or commingling, should not be put through a formal downgrading procedure as described in parts II.E and F of the program standards. Instead, enrolled producers should be asked to notify the Area Office or area scrapie coordinator of acquisitions that would lower the status and/or status date of their flock concurrently with the notification of the State Scrapie Board as required in part III.A.5. The new status date of the flock should be determined as is currently described in part II.E of the program standards.

These changes in status date resulting from owner reporting as required in part III.A.2.f should be transmitted to the National SIS database within 5 working days of confirmation. Area Offices that do not enter their own data should send any change in status to Betty Raab, Scrapie Program Assistant, via fax (301) 734-7964 or e-mail betty.c.raab@usda.gov within 48 hours of the status change.

The SIS information is transferred daily to the web site and utilized by producers making animal purchasing decisions. It is critical that all information on the web site be kept accurate and up to date.

/s/

Thomas E. Walton
Acting Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services



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