



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 23, 1999

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE 99-10

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Subject: Revised Components of a Scrapie Flock Plan

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

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

Washington, DC
20250

In order to improve the consistency of flock plans between States, we are providing a sample flock plan agreement and an accompanying sample monitoring and management plan agreement. These samples are available on the scrapie discussion database which is accessible on Lotus Notes. To access the database, open Lotus Notes and then click on each of the following in sequence: File/Database/Open/Data02/db/Scrapie Discussion/Open. The samples may be modified to accommodate the needs of different States or individual flock circumstances. Flock plans for source and infected flocks which contain or contained a high-risk animal or where a scrapie-positive animal has lambed, must include the requirements in sections (a) animal identification, (b) recordkeeping, (c) inspection, (d) epidemiologic investigation, (e) disinfection, (f) reporting suspects, (g) tissue submission, (h) high-risk animal removal, and (i) monitoring of the sample plan. Flock plans for infected flocks which do not contain and have not contained a high-risk animal and where a scrapie-positive animal has not lambed may be exempted from the disinfection requirement (e).

Owners of infected or source flocks must either (1) conduct a postexposure monitoring and management plan for five years after the last scrapie-positive- or high-risk animal is removed, or (2) join the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, (VSFCP) complete monitored category, and remain in compliance with the standards for exposed flocks for five years after the last scrapie-positive- or high-risk animal is removed. Large commercial slaughter lamb operations, where participation in the complete monitored category is impractical, may join the selective monitored program, but must officially identify all animals on change of ownership that are not moving in slaughter channels. If a flock owner elects the postexposure monitoring and management plan, the requirements in the following sections of the sample monitoring plan must be included (a) identification, (b) recordkeeping, (c) inspection authority, (d) annual inspection, (f) reporting of suspects, (g) tissue collection, and (h) removal of high-risk animals. However, the monitoring plan for infected flocks, which do not contain and have not contained a high-risk animal and where the epidemiologic investigation



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reveals no other exposure to scrapie, may be limited to sections (a) and (b) for exposed animals; (c), (d), (f), (g), and (h) for the entire flock; and a requirement to officially identify all animals on change of ownership that are not moving in slaughter channels.

Flocks should be released from infected or source flock status when:

- (1) all animals over 1 year of age have been identified and the identification verified,
- (2) all records that are required to be kept are inspected and found to be complete,
- (3) the epidemiologic investigation has been completed,
- (4) the premises have been disinfected (if required under the flock plan),
- (5) all high-risk, test-positive, and scrapie-suspect animals have been removed,
- (6) the flock plan agreement and the postexposure monitoring and management plan agreement have been signed or the flock is enrolled in the VSFCP, and
- (7) the flock is in compliance with the postexposure monitoring and management plan agreement or the VSFCP.

Owners of source or infected flocks that fail to comply with the monitoring requirement, or any other provision of the plan should remain on or be put back on the infected or source flock list until the requirement is met.

Owners of infected or source flocks who depopulated their flocks without a formal flock plan agreement may be removed from the infected or source flock list after the premises have remained vacant of sheep and goats for five years.

If you have any questions regarding the development of a flock plan, please contact the National Scrapie Program Coordinator, Diane Sutton, at 301-734-4363 or e-mail Diane.L.Sutton@USDA.GOV.

Thomas E. Walton *for*

Alfonso Torres
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosures

SAMPLE PLAN

Flock Plan Agreement - High Risk Animal Removal

1. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

2. LOCATION(S) OF FLOCK(S)

Telephone Number _____

3. Number of animals in flock _____

4. Flock number _____

5. Status _____ Status date _____

I _____ understand and agree to abide by the following provisions:

(a) To officially individually identify all animals 1 year of age or over within the flock . The form(s) of identification used will be _____.

(b) To record the following information for each animal in the flock:

- (1) All identifying marks or tags present on the animal including the animal's individual official identification number(s) from its electronic implant, flank tattoo, ear tattoo, tail fold tattoo, tamper resistant ear tag and any secondary form of identification the owner of the flock may choose to maintain;
- (2) Sex, breed, and date of birth of the animal;
- (3) Sire, dam, and offspring (if known)
- (4) Date of acquisition and previous flock, if the animal was not born in the flock; and
- (5) Disposition of the animal, including the date and cause of death, if known, or date of removal from the flock and name and address of the person to whom the animal was transferred.

(c) To upon request, make animals in the flock and the records (required to be kept as a part of this plan) available for inspection by APHIS representatives and State representatives, given reasonable prior notice.

(d) To assist in an epidemiological investigation to identify high-risk and exposed animals both those in the flock and those that have been removed from the flock. To request breed associations and registries, livestock markets, and packers to disclose records to APHIS representatives or State representatives. (These records will be used to identify source flocks and to trace exposed animals including high-risk animals.)

(e) To clean and disinfect the premises of the flock in accordance with the guidelines published in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program standards. (See attached list of facilities including a cleaning and disinfection plan for each)

(f) To immediately report to a State representative, APHIS representative, or an accredited veterinarian any animals in the flock exhibiting the following: Weight loss despite retention of appetite; behavioral abnormalities; pruritus (itching); wool pulling; biting at legs or side; lip smacking; motor abnormalities such as incoordination, high stepping gait of forelimbs, bunny hop

movement of rear legs, swaying of back end; increased sensitivity to noise and sudden movement; tremor, "star gazing", head pressing, recumbency, or other signs of neurological disease or chronic wasting illness. Such animals will not be removed from the flock without written permission of an APHIS representative or State representative.

(g) To upon request of an APHIS or State representative have an accredited veterinarian collect and submit tissues from animals for scrapie diagnostic purposes to a laboratory designated by an APHIS or State representative.

(h) To remove all high risk, test positive animals and suspect animals from the flock. The test positive and suspect animals must either be euthanized and the tissues submitted for confirmatory testing to NVSL and the carcass(es) disposed of by burial, incineration, or other methods in accordance with local, State, and Federal law or the animal may be donated to USDA for research. High risk animals will be removed in accordance with 9 CFR part 54 and 79.

(i) To either (1) conduct post-exposure management and monitoring plan for 5 years after the last scrapie positive or high risk animal is removed in accordance with the attached agreement, or (2) join the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program and remain in compliance with the standards for exposed flocks for 5 years after the last scrapie positive or high risk animal is removed (delete or cross out the one that does not apply).

(j) To utilize the following flock management strategies to reduce the risk of reintroduction or spread of scrapie in the flock. (These may include use of contemporary lambing groups, genetic testing, live animal testing, etc.)

(k) _____

A list of all the animals in the flock and their official identification is attached .

I understand that, if any animal in my flock is determined to be a scrapie positive animal or if a scrapie positive animal is traced back to my flock, additional animals may be designated as high risk or exposed and that my flock may be designated as an infected or source flock and be quarantined.

I understand, if I fail to comply with the terms of this agreement including failure to comply with the terms of the post-exposure management and monitoring plan or the VSFCP (whichever applies) my flock will remain on or be placed on the infected or source flock list and that my flock will remain or be placed under State quarantine until such time as the flock plan is completed.

I authorize breed associations and registries, livestock markets, and packers to disclose records to APHIS representatives or State representatives. I understand that these records will to used to identify and notify owners of source flocks and of exposed sheep, including high risk sheep.

This flock plan will be deemed complete and the flock released from infected or source flock status when all animals over 1 year of age have been identified and the identification verified, all records that are required to be kept are inspected and found to be complete, the epidemiologic investigation has been completed, if disinfection is a part of the plan the premise has been disinfected, all high risk, test positive and scrapie suspect animals have been removed, the post exposure monitoring plan agreement has been signed or the flock is enrolled in the VSFCP, and the flock is in compliance with the post exposure monitoring plan agreement or the VSFCP.

5. OWNER'S SIGNATURE

6. DATE

7. ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN'S SIGNATURE

8. DATE

9. STATE REPRESENTATIVES SIGNATURE

10. DATE

11. APHIS REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

12. DATE

Sample plan

Post Exposure Monitoring and Management Plan Agreement High Risk Animal Removal

1. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

2. LOCATION(S) OF FLOCK(S)

Telephone Number _____

3. Number of animals in flock _____

4. Flock number _____

5. Status _____ Status date _____

I _____ understand and agree to abide by the following provisions:

(a) To officially, individually identify all animals, 1 year of age or over within the flock and all animals less than 1 year of age when a change of ownership occurs, with the exception of those animals moving within slaughter channels that are identified in accordance with 9 CFR part 79. The form(s) of identification used will be _____.

(b) To maintain records for each animal in the flock for a minimum of 5 years after an animal dies or is removed from a flock that include the following:

- (1) All identifying marks or tags present on the animal including the animal's individual official identification number from its electronic implant, flank tattoo, ear tattoo, tail fold tattoo, tamper resistant ear tag and any secondary form of identification the owner of the flock may choose to maintain;
- (2) Sex, breed, and date of birth of the animal;
- (3) Sire, dam and offspring (if known)
- (4) Date of acquisition and previous flock, if the animal was not born in the flock; and
- (5) Disposition of the animal, including the date and cause of death, if known, or date of removal from the flock and name and address of the person to whom the animal was transferred

(c) To upon request, make animals in the flock and the records (required to be kept as a part of this plan) available for inspection by APHIS representatives and State representatives given reasonable prior notice.

(d) To schedule a flock inspection with the designated APHIS or State representative annually within one month of the anniversary date of this agreement.

(e) To clean and disinfect lambing facilities between each contemporary lambing group and at the conclusion of the lambing season in accordance with the guidelines published in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program standards.

(f) To immediately report to a State representative, APHIS representative, or an accredited veterinarian any animals in the flock exhibiting the following: Weight loss despite retention of appetite; behavioral abnormalities; pruritus (itching); wool pulling; biting at legs or side; lip

smacking; motor abnormalities such as incoordination, high stepping gait of forelimbs, bunny hop movement of rear legs, swaying of back end; increased sensitivity to noise and sudden movement; tremor, "star gazing", head pressing, recumbency, or other signs of neurological disease or chronic wasting illness. Such animals will not be removed from the flock without written permission of an APHIS representative or State representative.

(g) To upon request of an APHIS or State representative have an accredited veterinarian collect and submit tissues from animals for scrapie diagnostic purposes to a laboratory designated by an APHIS or State representative.

(h) To remove any animal determined to be a high risk, test positive or suspect animal from the flock. Test positive and suspect animals must either be euthanized and the tissues submitted for confirmatory testing to NVSL and the carcasse(s) disposed of by burial, incineration, or other methods in accordance with local, State, and Federal law or the animal may be donated to USDA for research. High risk animals will be removed in accordance with 9 CFR part 54 and 79.

(i) To utilize the following flock management strategies to reduce the risk of reintroduction or spread of scrapie in the flock. (These may include use of contemporary lambing groups, genetic testing, live animal testing, etc.)

(j) _____

I understand, if any animal in my flock is determined to be a scrapie positive animal or if a scrapie positive animal is traced back to my flock additional animals may be designated as high risk or exposed and my flock may be designated as an infected or source flock and be quarantined.

I understand, if I fail to comply with the terms of this agreement my flock will be placed on the infected or source flock list and that my flock will be quarantined by the State until such time as the plan is satisfactorily completed.

I authorize breed associations and registries, livestock markets, and packers to disclose records to APHIS representatives or State representatives.

This plan will be deemed satisfactorily completed if all requirements are met for five years after the last high risk or scrapie positive animal is removed.

5. OWNER'S SIGNATURE

6. DATE

7. ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN'S SIGNATURE

8. DATE

9. STATE REPRESENTATIVES SIGNATURE

10. DATE

11. APHIS REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

12. DATE