

## **Policy Statement Concerning Accelerated Scrapie Eradication Program**

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Scrapie is in a class of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy's (TSEs). Other diseases in this class include bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk. Recent publicity surrounding TSEs and limited knowledge about these diseases has heightened public concern. Extensive epidemiological research has shown no evidence that scrapie can be transmitted to humans.

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) believes it is in the industry's best interest to eliminate scrapie in the U.S. AASRP supports USDA's accelerated scrapie eradication program that was issued in October 2001 and its goal of eliminating scrapie from the U.S. by 2010. Ongoing federal funding of this national program will be imperative to support continuation of research, effective producer educational programs and indemnification of suspect and/or diseased sheep and goats.

Small ruminant practitioners provide an important conduit to communicate technical information about scrapie and the accelerated eradication program to producers and stand ready to assist this industry/government collaboration.

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