

Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) – Export Category

Sampling Requirements in Genetically Resistant and Genetically Susceptible Flocks Following the Standard Sampling Protocol

Scenario: A flock is following the Standard sampling protocol.¹ Although not required for this category, the flock owner has voluntarily had all sheep in the flock officially genotyped, including natural and purchased additions before they reach 14 months of age.

Question: What are the sampling requirements for this flock?

- If all animals in the flock are sheep, are either genetically resistant or genetically less susceptible (RR or QR at codon 171, respectively), and only RR rams are used for breeding²:
 - During a sampling year (from one inspection to the next), the annual sampling requirement is waived for that year if during that time period the flock remained genetically resistant.
 - Further, if the flock has 6 years of status the requirement to test 15 animals to advance to 6 years is waived, and if the flock has 7 years of status the requirement to test 30 animals to advance to Export Certified status is waived.
 - The flock must continue to meet all other testing requirements including:
 - Postmortem testing of clinical suspects;
 - Found dead animals;
 - Postmortem testing of any animal testing suspect, inconclusive or positive on a live animal test; and
 - Testing to meet lost to inventory requirements.
 - If there are genetically susceptible animals less than 14 months of age left in the flock, then they must be tested when they reach 14 months of age or be sold prior to reaching 14 months of age or kidding/lambing in the flock.
- If the flock contains one or more genetically susceptible animals (QQ sheep or goats)³:
 - Flocks that during a sampling year (from one inspection to the next) have either (1) tested for scrapie all QQ sheep and goats, that are over 14 months of age or that have ever lambed/kidded, with valid results, or (2) tested all such animals for scrapie 4 times with at least one valid result;
 - Additional testing to meet the annual sampling requirement is waived for that year.
 - Further, if the flock has 6 years of status the requirement to test 15 animals to advance to 6 years is waived, and if the flock has 7 years of status the requirement to test 30 animals to advance to Export Certified status is waived.

¹ This also applies to flocks that had been following either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 sampling protocols but had to switch to the Standard sampling protocol due to having an animal lost to inventory.

² A genetically resistant flock is one that meets all of the following criteria: it is composed only of RR or QR sheep, it has no goats, and it has no QQ sheep that are over 14 months of age or that have ever kidded/lambled.

³ A genetically susceptible flock is one that is partially or wholly composed of QQ sheep and/or goats.

- The only testing required as the flock moves toward Export Certified status is postmortem testing of clinical suspects, found dead animals and any animal testing suspect, inconclusive or positive on a live animal test and testing to meet lost to inventory requirements.
- If there are genetically susceptible animals less than 14 months of age left in the flock when the flock is eligible for Export Certificated status, then they must be tested when they reach 14 months of age or be sold prior to reaching 14 months of age or lambing in the flock.