

**Part I—Definitions**

Any definitions pertaining to scrapie published in parts 54 and 79 of the Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR), after the date of publication of these UM&R supersede these definitions.

**Accredited veterinarian**

A veterinarian approved by the Administrator of USDA–APHIS to perform functions required by cooperative State-Federal animal disease control and eradication programs.

**Administrator**

The Administrator of APHIS or any employee of USDA to whom the Administrator has delegated authority to act in his or her place.

**Animal**

Any sheep or goat.

**APHIS**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**APHIS representative**

An individual employed by APHIS in animal health activities who is authorized by the Administrator to perform specific functions and duties.

**Approved laboratory**

A diagnostic laboratory approved by the Administrator to conduct, on one or more tissues, approved tests for scrapie or genetic susceptibility to scrapie.

**Approved test**

A test for the diagnosis of scrapie approved by the Administrator of APHIS for use in the scrapie eradication or certification program.

**Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)**

The veterinary official of APHIS assigned by the Administrator to supervise and perform the official animal health work of APHIS in the State concerned.

**Blackface sheep**

Any purebred Suffolk, Hampshire, Shropshire, or cross thereof; any nonpurebred sheep known to have Suffolk, Hampshire, or Shropshire ancestors; and any nonpurebred sheep of unknown ancestry with a black face except for hair sheep. Note that hair sheep known to have Suffolk, Hampshire, or Shropshire ancestors are considered blackface sheep.

**Breed associations and registries**

Organizations that maintain the permanent records of ancestry or pedigrees (including the animal's sire and dam), individual identification, and ownership of animals.

**Breeding sheep and goats**

Any sexually intact sheep or goat that is not moving directly to slaughter, through slaughter channels to slaughter, or to a feedlot to enhance its condition for movement to slaughter.

**Certificate**

An official document issued in accordance with 9 CFR 79.5 by an APHIS representative, State representative, or accredited veterinarian at the point of origin of an interstate movement of animals.

**Commercial sheep or goat**

Any animal from a flock from which animals are moved only either directly to slaughter or through slaughter channels to slaughter, or any animal raised only for meat or fiber production and not registered with a sheep or goat registry or used for exhibition.

**Commingled, commingling**

Animals grouped together having physical contact with each other, including contact through a fence with a confined lambing area or lambing animals, but not limited contact (as defined below). Commingling includes sharing the same section in a transportation unit where physical contact can occur. In cases of shared fence lines, the Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist (DSE) will determine whether commingling has occurred through the fence based on relevant factors such as the type, integrity, and location of the fence, the proximity of lambing, and the stocking density.

**Consistent State**

A State, listed in 9 CFR 79.1, that the Administrator has determined conducts an effective State scrapie control program and is in compliance with 9 CFR 79.6.

**Deputy Administrator**

The Deputy Administrator for USDA–APHIS–VS or any other official to whom the Administrator has delegated authority to act for the Deputy Administrator.

**Designation of a flock or animal**

The official determination by the DSE that an animal or flock has a particular disease status or classification.

**Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist (DSE)**

A State or Federal veterinarian designated by APHIS to make decisions about the use and interpretation of diagnostic tests and field investigation data and the management of scrapie-affected flocks.

**Destroyed**

- Euthanized by means other than slaughter and the carcass disposed of by means authorized by the Administrator;
- In the case of exposed or high-risk animals not known to be infected, either euthanized or disposed of by slaughter; or
- Moved to a quarantined research facility if the Administrator has approved the movement.

**Direct movement to slaughter**

Animals that are transported to a facility for slaughter without unloading en route, other than for food and water, and that are not commingled with any other animals during transport or at such food and water stops.

**Electronic implant**

Any radio-frequency identification implant device approved for use in the scrapie program by the Administrator.

**Exposed animal**

Any animal that has been in a flock or in an enclosure off the premises of the flock with a scrapie-positive female animal or that has resided on the premises of a flock before or while it was designated an infected or source flock and before a flock plan was completed unless the scrapie-positive animal was not born on the premises, the date on which it was first introduced to the premises is known, and the animal resided in the flock only before the scrapie-positive animal was introduced to the premises. Exposed animals will be designated as either genetically resistant exposed sheep, genetically less susceptible exposed sheep, genetically susceptible exposed animals, or low-risk exposed animals.

**Exposed embryo**

Any embryo that was collected from an exposed, suspect, or scrapie-positive animal.

**Exposed flock**

Any flock that was designated an infected or source flock that has completed a flock plan and that retained a high-risk animal. Any flock under investigation that retains a genetically susceptible exposed animal or a suspect animal. Any flock under investigation whose owner declines to complete the required genotyping and live-animal or necropsy scrapie testing. Any flock that is not in compliance with a postexposure management and monitoring plan (PEMMP). A flock that has completed a PEMMP following the exposure will no longer be an exposed flock.

**Female animal**

A sexually intact female sheep or goat.

**Flock or herd**

All animals maintained on a single premises and all animals under common ownership or supervision on two or more premises with animal interchange between the premises. Changes in ownership of part or all of a flock do not change the identity of the flock or the regulatory requirements applicable to the flock. Animals maintained temporarily on a premises for activities such as shows and sales or while in marketing channels are not a flock. More than one flock may be maintained on a single premises if:

- a. The flocks are enrolled as separate flocks in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP); or
- b. A State or APHIS representative determines, based on examination of flock records, that:
  - No female animals have moved between the flocks;
  - The flocks never commingle and are kept at least 30 feet apart at all times or are separated by a solid wall through, over, or under which fluids cannot pass and through which contact cannot occur;
  - The flocks have separate flock records and identification;
  - The flocks have separate lambing facilities, including buildings and pastures, and a pasture or building used for lambing by one flock is not used by the other flock at any time; and
  - The flocks do not share equipment without cleaning and disinfection in accordance with the guidelines published in 9 CFR 54.7.

**Flock ID**

See premises identification number.

**Flock of origin**

For male animals, the flock of birth. For female animals, the flock in which an animal most recently resided in which it either was born, gave birth, or resided during lambing. The determination that an animal originated in a flock must be based either on the physical presence of the animal in the flock, the presence of official identification on the animal traceable to the

flock, the presence of other identification on the animal that is listed on the bill of sale, or other evidence, such as registry records.

#### **Flock plan**

A written flock management agreement signed by the owner of a flock, the accredited veterinarian (if one is employed by the owner), and a State or APHIS representative in which each participant agrees to undertake actions specified in the flock plan to control the spread of scrapie from, and eradicate scrapie in, an infected flock or source flock or to reduce the risk of the occurrence of scrapie in a flock that contains a high-risk or an exposed animal. As part of a flock plan, the flock owner must provide the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the requirements of the flock plan. The flock plan must include the requirements in 9 CFR 54.8.

#### **Flock under investigation (FUI)**

Any flock in which a scrapie suspect animal was born or lambed. Any flock containing a female high-risk or suspect animal or that once contained such an animal that may have lambed in the flock and from which obex and lymphoid tissues either were not submitted for official testing or were not found negative. A flock that has completed the required genotyping and live-animal or necropsy scrapie testing, that is in compliance with a PEMMP if one is required, or that has been designated an infected, source, or exposed flock will no longer be a flock under investigation.

#### **Genetically less susceptible exposed sheep**

- Any exposed AA QR sheep or embryo unless it is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie-positive RR or AA QR sheep. (The definitions for these acronyms are given under the definition of “Genotypes of Sheep.”)
- Any exposed AV QR sheep or embryo unless it is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie-positive RR, QR, AV QQ, or VV QQ sheep.

#### **Genetically resistant exposed sheep**

Any exposed RR sheep or embryo unless it is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie positive RR sheep.

#### **Genetically susceptible animal**

- A goat or goat embryo;
- A QQ sheep or embryo;
- A sheep or embryo of undeterminable genotype; or
- A genetically susceptible exposed animal.

#### **Genetically susceptible exposed animal**

Any exposed animal or embryo other than a low-risk exposed animal that is one of the following:

- A goat or goat embryo;
- A QQ sheep or sheep embryo;

- A sheep or sheep embryo of undeterminable genotype;
- An AV QR sheep or sheep embryo that is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie-positive RR, QR, AV QQ, or VV QQ sheep\*;
- An AA QR sheep or sheep embryo that is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie-positive RR or AA QR sheep; or
- An RR sheep or sheep embryo that is epidemiologically linked to a scrapie positive RR sheep.

\***Note:** AV QR sheep or sheep embryo epidemiologically linked to a positive animal for which the 136 codon type either cannot be determined or is unavailable at time of depopulation may also be removed.

### **Genotypes of sheep**

Two locations on DNA that code for prion protein are particularly important for scrapie susceptibility: codons 136 and 171. Codon 136 may code for either of the amino acids alanine (A) or valine (V). Codon 171 may code for the amino acids arginine (R), glutamine (Q), histidine (H), or lysine (K). For the purposes of these UM&R, H, K, or any amino acid other than R at codon 171 will be treated as equivalent to Q at codon 171.

### **RR sheep**

Any sheep that has tested RR at codon 171 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as RR.

### **QR sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QR, KR, or HR at codon 171 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as QR.

### **QQ sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QQ, QK, QH, HK, KK, or HH at codon 171 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as QQ.

### **AV sheep**

Any sheep that has tested AV at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AV.

### **VV sheep**

Any sheep that has tested VV at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as VV.

### **AA sheep**

Any sheep that has tested AA at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require

confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AA.

**AA QR sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QR, KR, or HR at codon 171 and AA at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AA QR.

**AV QR sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QR, KR, or HR at codon 171 and AV at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AV QR.

**AA QQ sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QQ, QK, QH, HK, KK, or HH at codon 171 and AA at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AA QQ.

**AV QQ sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QQ, QK, QH, HK, KK, or HH at codon 171 and AV at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as AV QQ.

**VV QQ sheep**

Any sheep that has tested QQ, QK, QH, HK, KK, or HH at codon 171 and VV at codon 136 on an official genotype test. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating a sheep as VV QQ.

**High-risk animal**

Any female genetically susceptible exposed animal. The female offspring of a scrapie-positive female animal or any female genetically less susceptible exposed animal that the DSE (with the concurrence of the AVIC, State Veterinarian, Regional Scrapie Epidemiologist, and National Scrapie Program Coordinator) determines to be a potential risk based on the epidemiology of the flock, including genetics of the positive sheep, the prevalence of scrapie in the flock, any history of recurrent infection, or other characteristics.

**Inconsistent State**

Any State other than a Consistent State.

**Infected flock**

Any flock in which a State or APHIS representative has determined that a scrapie-positive female animal has resided unless an epidemiological investigation conducted by a State or APHIS representative shows that the animal did not lamb or abort in the flock. A flock will no longer be considered an infected flock after it has completed the requirements of a flock plan.

**Interstate commerce**

Trade, traffic, transportation, or other commerce between a place in a State and any place outside of that State or between points within a State but through any place outside that State.

**Limited contact**

Any contact with a male animal or brief contact with a female animal off the flock's premises, such as occurs in the show or sales ring at fairs, shows, exhibitions, markets, and sales; between ewes being inseminated, flushed, or implanted; or between rams at ram test or collection stations. Embryo transfer and artificial insemination equipment and surgical tools must be disinfected between animals from different flocks by soaking the tools in a 2 percent available chlorine bleach solution or a 2 molar solution of sodium hydroxide for 1 hour or another disinfectant approved by the Administrator for this use for these contacts to be considered limited contacts. Limited contacts do not include any contact, brief, or otherwise, including contacts through a fence, with an animal during or up to 30 days after she lambbed, kidded, or aborted or when there is any visible vaginal discharge other than that associated with estrus. Limited contacts do not include any activity where uninhibited contact occurs with a female animal, such as sharing an enclosure, sharing a section of a transport vehicle, or residing in other flocks for breeding or other purposes, except as allowed by the SFCP standards.

**Live-animal screening test**

Any test for the diagnosis of scrapie in a live animal that is approved by the Administrator as usually reliable but not definitive for diagnosing scrapie and that is conducted in a laboratory approved by the Administrator.<sup>1</sup>

**Low-risk commercial flock**

A flock composed of commercial whitefaced, whitefaced cross, or commercial hair sheep or commercial goats that were born in, and have resided throughout their lives in, flocks with no known risk factors for scrapie, including any exposure to female blackfaced sheep other than

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<sup>1</sup> The names and addresses of laboratories approved by the Administrator to conduct live-animal screening tests will be published in the notices section of the *Federal Register*. A list of approved laboratories is also available upon request from the APHIS, VS, National Animal Health Programs Staff, 4700 River Road, Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1235. State, Federal, and university laboratories will be approved by the Administrator when he or she determines that the laboratory (a) employs personnel trained by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) assigned to supervise the testing, (b) follows standard test protocols, (c) meets check test proficiency requirements, and (d) will report all test results to State and Federal animal health officials. Before the Administrator may withdraw approval of any laboratory for failure to meet any of these conditions, the Administrator must give written notice of the proposed withdrawal to the director of the laboratory and must give the director an opportunity to respond. If there are conflicts as to any material fact, a hearing will be held to resolve the conflicts.

whiteface crosses born on the premises; that have never contained a scrapie-positive female, suspect female, or high-risk animal; and that have never been an infected, exposed, or source flock or a flock under investigation. The animals are identified with a legible permanent brand or ear notch pattern registered with an official brand registry or with an official premises identification eartag. The term “brand” includes official brand registry brands on eartags in those States whose brand law or regulation recognizes brands placed on eartags as official brands. Low-risk commercial flocks may exist only in a State where in the previous 10 years no low-risk commercial flock has been designated a source or infected flock.

#### **Low-risk commercial goat**

A low-risk goat (see definition of low-risk goat) from a herd in which animals are moved to slaughter only directly or through slaughter channels or any animal raised only for meat or fiber production and not registered with a sheep or goat registry or used for exhibition.

#### **Low-risk exposed animal**

Any exposed animal to which the DSE has determined one or more of the following applies:

- The positive animal was not born in the flock and did not lamb in the flock or in an enclosure where the exposed animal resided;
- The exposed animal most likely resided in the infected or source flock only before scrapie was introduced to the premises. This determination will be based on the flock history. If there is no information on which to base such a determination, the date 5 years prior to the earliest known exposure will be used. Note: If the precise date of scrapie introduction is known, such as when the positive animal is a purchased animal, an animal that transited the premises prior to that date is not an exposed animal;
- With the concurrence of a Regional or National Scrapie Epidemiologist and the State Veterinarian that the exposed animal’s exposure was low risk. That is, the animal was maintained on the premises in a location or during a time period when infection was highly unlikely to have occurred and was not exposed to the lambing or kidding of an infected animal or to lambing or kidding in an infected or source flock or to the lambing or kidding area in such flocks before it had been cleaned or disinfected;
- The animal is male and was not born in an infected or source flock; or
- The animal is a wether.

#### **Low-risk goat**

A goat that is not a scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk, or exposed animal; that has not been commingled with sheep other than sheep from low-risk commercial flocks; and that is from:

- A State in which scrapie has not been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years;
- A State in which scrapie has been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years, but the scrapie-positive goat was not born in the State, resided in the State for less than 72 months, and did not kid while in the State; or

- A State in which scrapie has been identified in a goat during the previous 10 years and the scrapie-positive goat was commingled with sheep and the flock records allowed a complete epidemiological investigation to be completed and all resulting infected, source, and exposed goat herds had completed flock plans and were in compliance with post-exposure monitoring and management plans.

**Male animal**

A sexually intact male sheep or goat.

**Mortgage**

Any mortgage, lien, or other security or beneficial interest held by any person other than the one claiming indemnity.

**National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)**

The USDA–APHIS–National Veterinary Services Laboratories and their cooperating and contract laboratories.

**Noncompliant flock**

- Any source or infected flock whose owner declines to enter into a flock plan or PEMMP agreement within 60 days of being so designated or whose owner is not in compliance with either agreement;
- Any exposed flock or flock under investigation whose owner fails to make animals available for testing within 60 days of notification, or as mutually agreed, or whose owner fails to submit required postmortem samples as directed in the PEMMP;
- Any flock whose owner has misrepresented, or who employs a person who has misrepresented, the scrapie status of an animal or any other information on a certificate, permit, owner statement, or other official document within the last 5 years; or
- Any flock whose owner or manager has moved, or who employs a person who has moved, an animal in violation of 9 CFR, part 79, within the last 5 years.

**Official eartag**

An identification eartag approved by APHIS as being sufficiently tamper resistant for the intended use and providing unique identification for each animal. An official eartag may conform to the alphanumeric National Uniform Ear-Tagging System or another system approved by APHIS, or it may bear an APHIS-approved premises identification number that either contains a unique identification number or is used in conjunction with the producer's livestock production numbering system to provide a unique identification number.

**Official genotype test**

Any test to determine the genotype of a live or dead animal conducted at either an approved laboratory (see definition) or at NVSL when the animal is officially identified and the samples

are collected and shipped to the laboratory by either an accredited veterinarian or a State or APHIS representative. APHIS may require confirmatory testing before designating an exposed sheep genetically resistant or less susceptible.

**Official identification**

Identification approved by APHIS for use in the scrapie eradication program.

**Official test**

Any test for the diagnosis of scrapie in a live or dead animal that is approved by the Administrator of APHIS for that use and conducted either at an approved laboratory or at NVSL.

**Owner**

A person, partnership, company, corporation, or any other legal entity that has legal or rightful title to animals, whether or not they are subject to a mortgage.

**Owner statement**

A written statement by the owner that includes the owner's name, signature, address, and telephone number, the date the animals left the flock of origin, the identification number assigned to the premises, the number of animals, the premises portion of the premises identification if premises identification is used, and a statement that the animals were either born or were used for breeding purposes on the premises to which the premises identification is assigned. (Note: Statements for animals not identified to their flock of origin that are moved in interstate commerce to a market or slaughter facility where they will be identified must include the name and address of the market or slaughter facility to which they are being shipped.)

**Permit**

An official document issued in connection with the interstate movement of animals (VS form 1-27 or a State form that contains the same information) by an APHIS representative, State representative, or an accredited veterinarian authorized to sign such permits. A new permit is required for each change in destination for an animal. A permit lists the owner's name and address; points of origin and destination; number of animals covered; purpose of the movement; whether the animals are from an exposed flock, flock under investigation, noncompliant, infected, or source flock; whether the animal is a high-risk, exposed, scrapie-positive, or scrapie suspect animal; transportation vehicle license number or other identification number; and seal number (if a seal is used). A permit also lists all official identifications on the animals covered. Official identifications may include the eartag number; a registered breed association's registration tattoo, brand, or number; a USDA backtag (when applied serially, only the beginning and ending numbers need to be recorded), or any other form of official identification present on the animal.

**Person number**

A unique number assigned to an accredited veterinarian or an APHIS or State representative that is recorded in the Scrapie National Generic Database (SNGD) and used to allocate tags and to identify that person on documents such as test charts.

**Postexposure management and monitoring plan (PEMMP)**

A written agreement signed by the owner of a flock, any accredited veterinarian employed by the owner, and a State or APHIS representative in which each participant agrees to undertake actions specified in the agreement to reduce the risk of the occurrence of scrapie and to monitor for the occurrence of scrapie in the flock for at least 5 years after the last high-risk or scrapie-positive animal is removed from the flock or after the last exposure of the flock to a scrapie-positive animal unless the monitoring time is otherwise specified by a State or APHIS representative. As part of a PEMMP, the flock owner must provide the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the required elements listed in the plan. The plan must include the requirements in 9 CFR 54.8.

**Premises**

The ground, area, buildings, and equipment occupied by, or used for, one or more flocks of animals.

**Premises identification**

An APHIS-approved eartag or tattoo bearing the premises identification number, which is either the national premises identification number or the Postal Service State abbreviation followed by a unique alphanumeric number or name assigned by a State or Federal animal health official to the premises on which the sheep or goats originated that, in the judgment of the State animal health official or AVIC, is epidemiologically distinct from other premises; or a permanent brand or ear notch pattern registered with an official brand registry. Premises identification may be used when official individual animal identification is required if the premises identification method either includes a unique animal number or is used in conjunction with the producer's livestock production numbering system to provide a unique identification number and when, if brands or ear notches are used, the animals are accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate. Paint brands may be used on animals moving directly to slaughter and animals moving for grazing or other management purposes without change in ownership.

**Premises identification number**

A unique number used on official eartags and tattoos to identify the premises of origin of an animal and that is recorded in the SNGD. The first two digits are the Postal Service abbreviation for States followed by an alphanumeric number that does not include I, O, or Q or is the national premises identification number.

**Premises number**

A unique number identifying a premises in the SNGD.