

APPENDIX A

National Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

Information for Producers

Submission of Samples to Alberta Agriculture's Edmonton TSE Laboratory for Scrapie Testing

- Alberta Producers
 1. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) require that the entire sheep/goat head be shipped or delivered to the TSE Laboratory in Edmonton, or to any ARD regional office (Airdrie or Lethbridge) in a frozen state.
 2. Producers must follow the instructions below for packaging and shipping or delivering frozen sheep/goat heads to Alberta Agriculture for Scrapie testing.
- Producers outside of Alberta
 1. Alberta Agriculture requires that the brain stem and retropharyngeal lymph node (RPLN) be shipped to the laboratory in a frozen state. If the RPLN is not available then the palatine tonsils should be included. These samples should be collected by a scrapie-accredited veterinarian.
 2. Veterinarians must follow the instructions below for packaging and shipping frozen brain and lymph node to Alberta Agriculture's laboratory for Scrapie testing.

Instructions for Producers on Packaging and Shipping / Delivering Frozen Sheep/Goat Heads

1. After cutting the sheep/goat's head off at the level of the base of the skull and the first vertebra of the neck, place the head into a heavy-duty garbage bag. Expel as much air as possible from the bag and tie it with a secure knot. Place the "bagged" head into a second heavy-duty garbage bag along with 2 – 3 ice freezer packs and crumpled newspaper to serve as absorbent material. Expel as much air as possible from the bag and tie it with a secure knot. Place the "double bagged" head into a rigid-sided shipping container (e. g. Rubbermaid, Coleman, cardboard box) and fill the shipping container with crumpled newspaper.
2. Place the **fully completed and legible *National Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (NVSFCP) submission form*** into a plastic bag. Seal the plastic bag and place it in the shipping container. Close the shipping container and seal it securely using packing tape or duct tape.
3. Address the shipping container to *Alberta Agriculture - Post Mortem Room, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 – 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4P2, (780) 427-8261.*



Include the return address and the words “**Diagnostic Specimen**”, “**Perishable**” and “**Rush**” on the shipping container. Place the shipping container containing the packaged head into a freezer and store it in the freezer until it is shipped or delivered to the laboratory.

4. Ship the packaged head to the laboratory by private courier eg. Greyhound; Purolator, etc., on a **Monday or Tuesday (excluding statutory holidays)**. The producer can also deliver the appropriately packaged frozen head to the O.S. Longman Building during normal working hours (**Monday – Friday from 8:15 am – 12 noon and 1:00 -4:30 pm, excluding statutory holidays**). Please do not bring the whole cadaver. Only the head is accepted.
5. If it is a trophy head, please book an appointment to have your sample collected and then you can recover the head immediately.
6. Questions regarding shipping/delivering sheep/goat heads to the Post Mortem room at the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton for Scrapie testing should be directed to the TSE Unit, Animal Health Branch (AHB) of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development at (780) 644-3967 and (780) 422-4455. ARD’s Regional offices can also be contacted as follows: **Airdrie**, telephone 403-948-8576; **Lethbridge**, telephone 403-382-4233.

Instructions for Scrapie Accredited Veterinarians on Packaging and Shipping Brain Stem and Retropharyngeal Lymph Node (or Tonsils)

1. The brain stem samples will be collected, stored, packaged and shipped to the TSE Laboratory as follows. After cutting the head off at the level of the atlanto-occipital joint, remove the brain stem through the foramen magnum and place it in a hard plastic specimen container labeled with the animal’s unique CSIP identification number (sheep), or ear tag or tattoo (goats). Place the lid securely on the container.
2. Collect one retropharyngeal lymph node (or one tonsil) and place it in another plastic sample cup labeled with the animal’s unique identification number. Securely seal both containers.
3. Place both sample containers into a large Whirl Pak or Ziploc bag and seal it securely. Place the large sealed plastic bag into a rigid sided shipping container (eg. Rubbermaid; Coleman; cardboard box) along with 2 freezer packs and crumpled absorbent material, such as newspaper.
4. Place the **fully completed and legible *National Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program* submission form** into a plastic bag. Seal the plastic bag and place it in the shipping container. Close the shipping container and seal it securely using packing tape or duct tape.
5. Address the shipping container to **Alberta Agriculture – TSE Lab, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 – 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4P2, (780) 415-4516**. Include the



return address and the words “**Diagnostic Specimen**”, “**Perishable**” and “**Rush**” on the shipping container.

6. Refrigerate the shipping container if it will be 24 hrs or less from the time the samples are collected until they are shipped to the laboratory. If the time from sample collection to shipping will exceed 24 hrs, store the shipping container in a freezer until the samples are shipped to the laboratory. Ship the samples to the laboratory so they will arrive at the laboratory on a weekday. **Do not ship samples on a statutory holiday, or on Fridays, or if they will arrive at the laboratory on a statutory holiday.**
7. Questions regarding shipping samples to Alberta Agriculture’s Edmonton TSE Laboratory for scrapie testing should be directed to the Animal Health Branch’s TSE Unit at (780) 644-3967.

Producers whose flocks are registered in the NVSFCP will be reimbursed by the Canadian Sheep Federation for the veterinarian’s fees associated with sample collection and delivery (\$130). The cost of the test will also be covered by the CSF. For more information call 1-866-534-1302.

Reporting of Scrapie Test Results

- Alberta Agriculture’s TSE Unit will fax or mail the Bio-Rad Scrapie test results to producers and to the National Scrapie Project Coordinator.
- Scrapie is a reportable disease under the federal Health of Animals Act and Regulations. In the event of an inconclusive or a suspect positive Scrapie Bio-Rad test result at the TSE laboratory of Alberta Agriculture, the CFIA will be notified. The CFIA will forward samples to the CFIA’s National Scrapie Reference Laboratory for confirmatory Scrapie testing. If a sheep is confirmed positive for Scrapie by the CFIA, the CFIA will lead all follow-up activities related to the positive diagnosis, including procedures listed under the National Scrapie Control Program enabled by the Health of Animals Act and Regulations legislation.

