

# Sheep & Goat HEALTH REPORT

A National Institute for Animal Agriculture Publication

Fall 2004

## Inside This Issue...

PAGE 2  
FDA to Establish MUMS Office

PAGE 3  
Colorado Project Examines RFID

PAGE 4-5  
ID Implementation Continues

PAGE 6  
Bush Taps Johanns for Ag Secretary

PAGE 7-8  
Take the Readership Survey!

## USAHA's Scrapie Committee Seeks Improvements

The Scrapie Committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) has sought action to bring the Scrapie Programs higher levels of consistency, both on an international and on a state level. The two resolutions were approved by the USAHA at their annual meeting, held October 21-28 in Greensboro, N.C.

One of the resolutions recommends bringing the U.S. Scrapie Flock Certification Program into a more consistent status with that of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The committee notes that significant changes have taken place since the implementation of the accelerated scrapie eradication program.

### USAHA Resolution:

"The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) thoroughly review the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) and determine the best method to bring the SFCP into consistent status with current World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) standards. The changes proposed should be subjected to public review prior to implementation."

A second resolution from the committee calls for a higher level of activity from states, in order to

maintain compliance with the scrapie eradication programs.

The codified deadline for states to be in compliance as a "Consistent State" was August 21, 2003, two years after the regulation became effective.



### USAHA Resolution:

"The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges State Animal Health Officials to submit their Consistent State status pre-review checklist immediately and the states take appropriate measures to be in full compliance. USAHA further urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and State Animal Health Officials to take action immediately to enforce compliance with the interstate movement and Consistent State regulations."

"The action that resulted from the resolutions should make the national scrapie eradication program better, as there will be greater accountability in each state for each one of their positive flock's investigation," said Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine. "Compliance regarding ID will likely improve as a result." ●

**Sheep & Goat  
Health Report**  
National Institute for Animal Agriculture  
1910 Lyda Avenue  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 82  
Bowling Green, KY  
42104

# FDA to Establish MUMS Office

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced in early November the establishment of a new Office of Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) Animal Drug Development and is requesting comment on the implementation of the newly enacted MUMS Animal Health Act.

The MUMS Animal Health Act became law on August 2, 2004. Several elements of the law became immediately effective on that date including the provisions for designation of MUMS drugs and for conditional approval of MUMS drugs. Implementing regulations

for drug designation will be the first to be developed by the new Office, with proposed regulations due by August 2, 2005, as mandated by the MUMS Act. The indexing provisions of the law will only become effective upon publication of final implementing regulations.

Written or electronic comments on any aspect of implementation of the MUMS legislation may be submitted to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Electronic comments may be submitted. Comments should be submitted by January 10, 2005, and

should include Docket No. 2004N-0480.

Additional information on MUMS is available on the Center for Veterinary Medicine web site. Questions on MUMS may be directed to Dr. Andrew Beaulieu, Office of Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Drug Development, Center for Veterinary Medicine, 7519 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-2945, [abeaulie@cvm.fda.gov](mailto:abeaulie@cvm.fda.gov) or Dr. Meg Oeller, Office of Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Drug Development, Center for Veterinary Medicine, 7519 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-3067, [moeller@cvm.fda.gov](mailto:moeller@cvm.fda.gov). ●



## Sheep & Goat Health Report

Fall 2004

Publisher

National Institute for  
Animal Agriculture  
Glenn N. Slack, President & CEO

Benjamin Richey, Editor

*Sheep & Goat Health Report* provides the latest information on issues pertinent to sheep and goat health initiatives, strategies, research and regulatory action.

It is a communications initiative of the NIAA Sheep and Goat Health Committee and is produced in cooperation with USDA-APHIS. Reprinting is encouraged.

For a free subscription, send your name and mailing address to NIAA at:

1910 Lyda Avenue  
Bowling Green, KY 42104-5809  
ph.: 270-782-9798 fax: 270-782-0188  
e-mail: [NIAA@animalagriculture.org](mailto:NIAA@animalagriculture.org)  
Web site: [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org)

## Scrapie 2004: Annual Report

Dr. Diane Sutton, National Scrapie Program Coordinator, presented the program's annual report for 2004 at the October meeting of the United States Animal Health Association. Highlights of the report for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, compared to a year earlier are listed in the table below.

	2004	2003
Total flocks participating in the SFCP	1,868	1,776
Newly enrolled or certified SFCP flocks	215	310
Infected/source flocks in U.S. as of Sept. 30	70	50
Newly infected flocks reported	103	73
Infected/source flocks released	77	60
Scrapie cases confirmed by NVSL	368	351
Scrapie cases confirmed by NVSL in goats	1	0
Total animals tested for scrapie	25,006	16,803
Premises in the Scrapie National Generic Database	90,322	79,810

SFCP: Scrapie Flock Certification Program

NVSL: National Veterinary Services Laboratory

## Colorado Project Examines RFID

Animal identification has garnered plenty of attention for the last year, and even years before. Much of the livestock industry is hungry for information on ID, particularly how it will work at the farm/ranch level. The Colorado Sheep ID Project, funded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the National Scrapie Eradication Program, is a four phase project to test radio frequency identification (RFID) in sheep. The goal is to be able to develop a feasible model for identifying sheep and tracking them from birth through all phases of production.

Dr. Jay Parsons, president of Optimal Ag Consulting, Inc., presented the preliminary results of this project to the U.S. Animal Health Association's Sheep and Goat Committee in order to enhance discussions on ID in the sheep industry as it moves ahead.

The four phases of the project, which initiated in January 2004, include a discovery phase, implant and tag phase, a tracking phase and the evaluation phase. Parsons said that the project was designed around retention issues and ID economics.

"We wanted to find out if putting RFID in the tail was a viable option for producers, and be able to compare that with the RFID tag option," said Parsons.

The discovery phase of this project included a preliminary trial, identification of cooperative producers and selection of equipment in the study. The preliminary trial consisted of 150 head of feedlot lambs, sectioned into five treatment groups. Three types of RFID, including ear implants, tail implants and RFID tags were used, along with two types of visual tags.

"Our ultimate purpose with the

preliminary study was making sure that the tail implant was not a food safety issue," said Parsons. "We worked through the Food Safety Inspection Service on this portion as a precautionary measure to ensure that implant migration wouldn't be a problem. We found that it wasn't."

*"With this study, we simply want to provide a baseline for comparison for (sheep) identification."*

DR. JAY PARSONS,  
OPTIMAL AG CONSULTING

Results from the preliminary study proved to be promising, as each of the treatments were read three times throughout the study. The results showed that 150 of 150 of the RFID were successfully read at 10 days, 149 of 150 successfully read at 38 days, and 148 of 150 successfully read at 45 days (slaughter). The implants that did not read were confirmed to have fallen out of the animal.

Phase II of this ID study is the Implant and Tag Phase, which involves 300 lambs with three producers, totaling 900 lambs for this portion. This phase was initiated in April 2004, using a total of six treatments with each group.

Half of the lambs received an RFID implant in the caudal fold of the tail, while the other half received an RFID ear tag. The study is utilizing three different manufacturers for both the implants and RFID tags. The lambs are located on Colorado and Wyoming rangelands.

Parsons reported at USAHA that they had scanned the animals at one of the cooperating producer's operations, finding an overall retention rate of approximately 97 percent. He also noted that the ear tags

were slightly out-performing the implants.

As part of the third phase, similar findings were recently found in the two other groups, yielding an overall retention rate of 95-96 percent on the three groups. Parsons did note that one of the groups may have run into complications with tags being lost.

"The results are fairly in-line with our expectations," added Parsons. He said that retention of that level might be less than desirable in terms of the needs of an ID program overall. "Upwards of 99 percent would be ideal."

Parsons also noted that with this study, the lambs were tagged at an extremely young age, relative to typical industry practices. The lambs were tagged at less than two weeks of age, which isn't an economically ideal time to tag considering issues such as death loss. The study was designed this way in order to provide baseline data for comparison of different identification practices.

"With this study, we simply want to provide a baseline for comparison for identification," added Parsons. "Looking at costs to individually ID animals and when to ID the lambs will allow a mark for the potential for group/lot ID to match up against as the overall system is developed."

The study has also examined a variety of readers. Parsons said that readers are a crucial part of an ID system, most importantly their ability to handle large numbers of animals in a timely manner.

The study is ongoing, scheduled to be completed in March 2005. Parsons hoped the sheep industry can use the findings in application of individual ID technology for the National Animal ID System. ●

# ID Implementation Continues

The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues progress with the implementation of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Recent months have brought forth new progress for the program.

## Additional \$1.5 Million Allocated to States for NAIS

USDA has announced that an additional \$1.5 million is available for NAIS cooperative agreements with states.

"These funds have been set aside to support premises registration activities," said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. "A national animal identification system will help locate premises where animals are born, managed, marketed or exhibited. States that applied for funding in July and were not selected at that time are now eligible for a portion of the \$1.5 million if they meet specified requirements."

The \$11.64 million set aside earlier this year for cooperative

agreements with state and tribal governments was dispersed among 29 agreements. A total of 43 applications were received by USDA for that funding. Now, the additional \$1.5 million provides another 13 applicants with an opportunity to resubmit plans for a minimum of \$100,000. The revised applications are due by Dec. 1 and must address any feedback received during the evaluation of their first-round application.

USDA states that the NAIS continues to be a priority. The President requested \$33 million in the FY2005 budget requests to continue supporting NAIS implementation and a portion of these funds would be used for additional cooperative agreements with states and tribes. They will continue to register premises and also phase in animal identification systems at a state or regional level. States identified in this second funding effort include: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee,

Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington state.

## USAHA ID Committee Offers Two Resolutions

The U.S. Animal Health Association has long played an important part in the development of animal identification, and this year proved no different. USAHA's Committee on Livestock Identification sent forth two resolutions out of the late-October meeting in Greensboro, N.C. The first resolution urges for industry, state and federal cooperation on the development of an appropriate animal traceability database. The second resolution recommends that all states begin use of electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. The full resolutions are as follows:

### USAHA Resolution #2:

"In order to expedite the development of a data management system to meet all stakeholders' needs and expectations, the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the National

## Seeking more information on the National Animal Identification System?

Resources are available on the National Animal Identification System. USDA has produced two booklets on NAIS, one which focuses on premises identification and the other is an overview of the system. The brochures can be found on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais).

Additionally, the Western Extension Marketing Committee has developed a series of fact sheets, with support from the Western Center for Risk Management Education and the Livestock Marketing Information Center. The fact sheets are available on the Internet at <http://www.lmic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm>.



Animal Identification System (NAIS) Subcommittee of the Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases to request the United States Department of Agriculture to facilitate the cooperative development of an appropriate animal traceability database system through the joint leadership of the species and segment working groups, issue-based working groups, and state animal health officials."

#### USAHA Resolution #28:

"The United States Animal Health Association recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services should commit to bring all 50 states onto electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and provides the necessary support within the next 18-24 months. In addition, ICVI should be referenced through the *Code of Federal Regulations*."

### Interim Rule Announced for Alternatives in ID Numbering System

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) says it is going to recognize additional numbering systems for the identification of animals. The systems will apply to interstate commerce and cooperative disease control and eradication programs for animals. Additionally, APHIS will authorize the use of a national numbering system to identify premises where animals are managed or held. The new numbering systems come as another step in the establishment of NAIS, which is being implemented on a voluntary basis.

The move points NAIS in a direction that would create a standardized numbering system, which is widely supported by industry and government. Currently, many producers use

separate identification numbers or methods for official animal health programs, interstate commerce purposes and industry programs such as breed registries. An ani-

See *ID Roundup* | page 6

## Subcommittee Provides Path for NAIS Industry Input

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) subcommittee under the Secretary's Advisory Committee for Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases (SACFAPD) to provide stakeholder review and input.

The subcommittee has been charged with providing recommendations to the SACFAPD for consideration on the following matters related to NAIS:

- The scope, thoroughness, and appropriateness of NAIS development and implementation;
- Specific input on how the system should be implemented within various segments of the industry; and
- The development of Uniform Methods and Rules (UM&R) for NAIS, which will provide guidance for stakeholders and will ensure common standards that will enable effective state, federal and industry cooperation.

The NAIS subcommittee has 13 members and is led by three "tri-chairs", including: John Adams of the National Milk Producers Federation, Jim Neiwold, a swine producer from Illinois, both members of the SACFAPD, and Dr. Robert Fourdraine, CEO of the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium and vice-chair of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's (NIAA) Animal Identification and Information

Systems Committee. Most of the members of the subcommittee served on the U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) Steering Committee that provided oversight in the development of the framework for which NAIS is largely based.

It is anticipated that the subcommittee will meet two to four times annually, participate in conference calls more frequently with staff from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and report semi-annually to the FAPD advisory committee.

The subcommittee will obtain input from different segments of industry and may establish working groups as needed. The USAIP Species/Segments Working Groups and three issue-based working groups on communications, information technology and standards will now provide input to the subcommittee. In addition, the subcommittee will draw on expertise from NIAA and the U.S. Animal Health Association, two organizations that have helped pioneer the establishment of a national system for animal identification.

It is expected that NAIS will lay the foundation for a comprehensive system for animal identification in the United States, which will be a first step towards enhancing animal health official's ability to safeguard the health of U.S. livestock, and to protect and enhance international trade.

## ID Roundup | USDA Continuing Progress

(continued from page 5)

mal or group of animals would be identified with the same official number under multiple programs, instead of being identified with a different number under each program. The data associated with each program could still be maintained separately, however.

Accordingly, APHIS is amending the regulations to recognize for official use the 15-character animal identification number, 13-character group/lot identification number and 7-character premises identification number. The new official animal numbering system will allow producers to transition into the use of a one-number, one-animal system if they wish to do so.

This interim rule does not change the requirements defining which animals must be officially identified, nor does it require that producers use the new numbering systems. The rule merely ensures

that the new numbering systems are recognized as official, allowing those who want to use such systems to do so.

The rule also provides an amendment to prohibit the removal of official identification devices, including those recognized as official on livestock imported from other countries.

This interim rule was published in the Nov. 8 Federal Register and became effective upon publication. APHIS documents published in the Federal Register and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/werepor.html>. Consideration will be given to comments received on or before Jan. 7, 2005.

### Legislation Proposed for Data Confidentiality

In a presentation to the U.S. Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Livestock Identification Committee in October, Dr. John Clifford announced that USDA has sent draft legislation to Capitol Hill addressing confidentiality of data involved with the National Animal ID System. The legislation would provide an amendment to the Animal Health Protection Act to fit the needs of NAIS. Disclosure of information will be highly limited, yet still allow for animal health officials to trace back disease in 48 hours, the goal of NAIS. Further details on the draft legislation have not been released, nor has Congress' timeline as to when the legislation will be introduced. ●

## Bush Taps Johanns for Ag Secretary

President Bush has announced the nomination of Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns to serve as the next Secretary of Agriculture.



Gov. Mike Johanns

Johanns will succeed Ann Veneman in the position for the President's second term.

"He's been a leader on drought relief in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest," said President Bush. "He's a strong proponent of alternative energy sources, such as ethanol and biodiesel. He's traveled the

world to promote American farm exports."

Johanns is a native Iowan, growing up on a dairy farm. He graduated from Osage (Iowa) Community High School, St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, and earned his law degree from Creighton University in Omaha. After practicing law and serving in various city positions, Johanns served as mayor of Lincoln, Neb., prior to being elected governor of the state in 1999.

"I congratulate Governor Johanns on being named today by the President to serve as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture," said outgoing Secretary Veneman. "He is

a good friend whom I've worked with closely over the years to advance agriculture policy and trade opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers."

"We're looking forward to meeting with the new secretary about the importance of sheep industry programs," said Peter Orwick, executive director of the American Sheep Industry Association. "We hope to discuss the APHIS, Veterinary Services' Scrapie program and Wildlife Services programs at our first opportunity."

Johanns' appointment is pending Senate approval. ●

## Take the Readership Survey: Your thoughts on Sheep & Goat Health Report

Sheep & Goat Health Report is an important means of communication to key stakeholders in the sheep and goat industries.

In order to ensure that Sheep & Goat Health Report best serves your needs, we are providing you with an opportunity to give us your input. The Readership Survey, which can be found on

page 8 of this issue, is a brief 15-question survey that will allow us to better understand what you look for in this type of publication.

The survey is located on the last page of this publication. Simply fill it out and detach this portion, fold the page in thirds and place a stamp as indicated.

We hope that you'll take a few

minutes to complete the survey and return it. Your input is greatly appreciated.

### *Take the Survey Online!*

Or, if you prefer, the survey can be completed online. Simply go to [www.animalagriculture.org/survey/sheepgoathealth.htm](http://www.animalagriculture.org/survey/sheepgoathealth.htm) to submit your thoughts electronically.

*fold here*

Sheep & Goat  
HEALTH REPORT

Sheep & Goat  
HEALTH REPORT

*fold here*

Place  
Postage  
Here

National Institute for Animal Agriculture  
Sheep & Goat Health Report  
1910 Lyda Ave  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

# SHEEP & GOAT HEALTH REPORT Readership Survey 2004

**1. Which of the following best describes your professional affiliation?**

- Producer
- Producer/Farm/Commodity Association Executive
- State Employee
- Federal Employee
- Practicing Veterinarian or Veterinary Association Executive
- Academician/Extension/Researcher/Diagnostician
- Allied Industry Stakeholder
- Media/Communications
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. In which Time Zone are you located?**

- Eastern
- Central
- Mountain
- Pacific

**3. What is your primary source of agriculture information? (choose one)**

- Trade Publication (Newspaper, Magazine)
- Industry Newsletters
- Email/Internet
- Television/Radio
- Personal Contact
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Rate the usefulness of this quarterly publication to you.**

- 1 poor
- 2 fair
- 3 average
- 4 good
- 5 excellent

**5. How much of Sheep & Goat Health Report do you typically read?**

- None
- Very little
- Some
- Most
- All

**6. The timeliness of information is:**

- New and timely
- Outdated
- Not new, but still informative

**7. The depth of information in Sheep & Goat Health Report is:**

- too basic
- about right
- too technical

**8. In the Sheep & Goat Health Report, I would like:**

- More news items
- More in-depth analysis of key issues
- Better balance of news and in-depth information
- No changes at all

**9. I find the layout/design to be:**

- Attractive, easy to read
- Attractive, but hard to read
- Plain, but easy to read
- Plain, hard to read

**10. Layout suggestions, (choose all that apply):**

- More pictures/graphics
- More text/information
- Change Color/improve general appearance
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**11. How would you prefer to receive Sheep & Goat Health Report?**

- Through mail, as I currently do
- Through email in an electronic format

**12. Please prioritize the following areas, based upon your interests, to be covered in Sheep & Goat Health Report: (rank 1-7)**

- \_\_\_ News, information and progress updates on federal disease eradication and emerging disease activity
- \_\_\_ State and national activities addressing the increasing prevalence of economically significant diseases
- \_\_\_ Highlights on health/biosecurity strategies and other industry initiatives
- \_\_\_ News and information on topics pertaining to animal health emergency management and international trade
- \_\_\_ Findings from NAHMS and other research/scientific studies
- \_\_\_ Features on advancements in animal ID and other emerging topics
- \_\_\_ Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**13. The length of articles is:**

- too long
- about right
- too short

**14. Would you prefer a magazine-style publication that would include information from multiple species, rather than species specific?**

- Yes
- No

**15. Other comments that would make Sheep & Goat Health Report more useful to you:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---