



Wyoming Livestock Board

"Safeguarding Wyoming's Livestock Industry Today and for the Future"



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Memorandum

To: All Wyoming Accredited Veterinarians, State Veterinarians
From: Wyoming Livestock Board, Animal Health Division
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Ref: JT-07-26
Subject: **Black Faced Sheep for Importation into Wyoming**

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The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) adopted new Chapter 8 Import Rules on March 31, 2007. In Section 28 we have requirements for genetic testing of black-faced sheep for susceptibility to scrapie:

Requirements for the importation of Ovine:

(g)(iii) *All black-faced Ovine that are imported into Wyoming for reproductive purposes shall be genetically tested for susceptibility to Scrapie. If found to be susceptible as determined by the Wyoming State Veterinarian, the following options exist:*

(A) The import will not be allowed;

(B) If the Ovine is fourteen (14) months of age or older and tests negative on a Third Eyelid Test for Scrapie, the import will be permitted, or

(C) If the Ovine is less than fourteen (14) months of age it may be imported under Quarantine to be tested by the Third Eyelid Test for Scrapie upon reaching fourteen (14) months of age. If it tests positive, it must be ear-tagged and sent to slaughter according to the Scrapie UMR.

This has led some to question what genetic test will be required. At this time one strain of scrapie appears to be predominant in the U.S. sheep population and susceptibility to that strain is largely determined by the amino acids found at codon 171. Therefore, Wyoming State Veterinarian will require the genetic testing of codon 171 to be used when determining susceptibility to scrapie. Sheep testing with at least one arginine (R) at codon 171 will be considered resistant. All others will be considered susceptible.

A full copy of the WLSB Import Rules is on our website, and will be available for distribution. If you have any other questions or concerns about this issue please feel free to contact us at the Wyoming Livestock Board (307) 777-7515.

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