



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2010

Contact: Scharee Atchison
719-538-8843
SLAtchison@AnimalAgriculture.org

From the Eradicate Scrapie! Information Initiative

A New Presentation Addressing the Eradication of Scrapie in the U.S. Goat Population is Now Available

Colorado Springs, Colorado—Efforts to eliminate scrapie in sheep in the United States are succeeding. To ensure complete and successful eradication of this fatal degenerative brain disease its occurrence in the goat population must also be addressed.

A presentation entitled, “The Importance of Eradicating Scrapie in Goats in the United States” is now available as a compact disc (CD) as part of the Eradicate Scrapie! Information Initiative, conducted by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services.

The presentation covers basic information about scrapie and its prevalence in sheep and goat populations in the United States. The main focus of the presentation explores what is known about how scrapie is transmitted within sheep and goat populations and the clinical signs producers need to be aware of to help identify and

report animals that could be infected. The CD also includes video footage of infected goats to provide producers with examples of behavior, posture and gait changes associated with scrapie infection which are easily overlooked in the early stages of disease.

The presentation thoroughly reviews two case studies of goat scrapie diagnosis: the West Coast Case and the Great Lakes Case. It concludes with a review of the official protocols of the National Scrapie Identification Program including:

- Identification Requirements
- Registry Information
- Identification Methods and Record Keeping__

The presentation is also available at www.eradicatescrapie.org in PDF format for downloading to a CD or as a printed version. An order form to request your free copy of the presentation is also available at this web address.

NIAA is dedicated to programs that work toward the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote the best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well being. NIAA members include producers, veterinarians, animal scientists, researchers, state and federal officials, and agribusiness executives. More information is available at www.animalagriculture.org.