

2013 Maine Report of Activities Supported by Scrapie Funds

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Maine Sheep & Goat Seminar – Housing & Equipment *Amount paid \$1,000.00*

A practical seminar designed to equip sheep and/or goat producers with information about housing & equipment for sheep and goats will be presented on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Kennebec Valley Community College, in Fairfield, Maine. The day-long seminar is co-sponsored by the Maine Sheep Breeders Association and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Approximately 80 producers are expected to participate in the seminar.

Instructors for the day will include Professor John Porter from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension; personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); a panel of producers; and Small Ruminant Specialist, Dr. Richard Brzozowski of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Printed material about scrapie, describing the disease and how producers can involve their herd/flock in the Scrapie Eradication Program will be included in the reference notebooks provided to each participant. Brzozowski worked with regional APHIS personnel in assembling the latest printed materials.

The American Sheep Industry Association is listed as donor on the seminar website to which individuals go for registration. The link brings interested parties to the latest information about the disease and scrapie eradication.

In addition, a table-top display on scrapie will be presented at the day-long seminar as well as at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association that is scheduled to take place that evening. A total of over one hundred different individuals are expected to participate in these two educational events.

MSBA will use a portion of the Scrapie Funds to cover seminar expenses that have been or will be incurred. Expenses included event promotion; information packets (copying); facility rental (\$350 paid to Kennebec Valley Community College), refreshments and lunch for all seminar participants (\$350 paid to Northstar Farms).

Scrapie Program – Producer Involvement

A portion of the scrapie funds awarded will also be used to support direct communications (hard copy and electronic mailings) to all sheep and goat producers in Maine, encouraging them to

become actively involved in animal identification by obtaining the appropriate ear tags and following the correct procedures in animal identification and record keeping. Our goal is to increase the number of participating farms in Maine.

Scrapie Surveillance

A portion of the scrapie funds will also be used to support direct communications (hard copy and electronic mailings) with sheep and/or goat producers; the animal diagnostic laboratory; and slaughter houses in Maine to alert them to the procedure for the submission of tissue from the heads of dead rams, ewes, bucks and does of the appropriate age as surveillance for Scrapie.

Small Ruminant Specialist, Richard Brzozowski will work with Federal Veterinarian, Chip Ridky in this educational outreach across the state. Our goal is to increase the number of specimens from Maine animals submitted in the next 12 months. Dr. Ridky is based in Augusta, Maine at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, 28 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone: 207-287-7632. Chip.W.Ridky@usda.gov.