



## SCRAPIE MONITORING SCHEME

### RULES AND CONDITIONS

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS) facilitates the trade of breeding sheep and goats, their semen, embryos and ova, between flocks/herds of a similar scrapie status, both within Ireland and between Ireland, other EU countries (Member States) and 3<sup>rd</sup> countries. Being a member of the SMS will enable you to demonstrate that your animals originate from a flock/herd that is classified as having either negligible risk status or controlled risk status for scrapie.

- Controlled risk status – this is achieved when the flock/herd has been a member of the SMS for three years and is free of classical scrapie for those three years.
- Negligible risk status – this is achieved when the flock/herd has been a member of the SMS for seven years and is free of classical scrapie for those seven years.

You will have to comply with other animal health certification requirements when exporting sheep and goats.

A flock/herd participating in the SMS must generally include all of the sheep and goats under its flock/herd number.

#### 2 DEFINITIONS

In this document the following will apply:

1. THE DEPARTMENT means The Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine.
2. THE MINISTER means The Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine
3. THE SCHEME means The Scrapie Monitoring Scheme operated by the Department and detailed in this document.

4. THE REGISTER means the list of flocks/herds in Ireland that have completed a minimum period of three years as probationary members to achieve controlled risk status, and flocks/herds working their way to achieving the negligible risk status. The Register of Members is maintained by the TSE Section, Johnstown Castle, Wexford and is revised each year. DAFM may also list flocks/herds who are members of the SMS scheme but have not fulfilled three full years of membership on the register.

Only registered members with a minimum of a controlled risk status will be sanctioned by the Department to trade in breeding sheep or goats to other EU member states. For such trade to be allowed, no case of classical scrapie should have been confirmed in the flock/herd for a minimum of 3 years.

5. A PROBATIONARY MEMBER has just started on year one of the scheme and will be only allowed to trade once the SMS rules have been complied with for 3 years. The holding will then be recognised as having a scrapie controlled risk status.
6. ANIMAL means sheep or goat.
7. NEGLIGIBLE RISK HOLDING means a holding of either, or both, ovine and caprine animals that have complied with the conditions of the SMS for at least seven years or a holding of ovine animals having acquired the TSE-resistance 'level 1' status where no case of Classical Scrapie has been confirmed for at least seven consecutive years and all sheep in the flock are ARR/ARR
8. CONTROLLED RISK HOLDING means a holding of either, or both, ovine and caprine animals that have complied with the conditions of the SMS for a period of at least three years:
9. In **exceptional** circumstances where it can be shown that the risk of classical scrapie is very low, DAFM may consider applications for holdings to be granted controlled or negligible risk status without prior membership of the SMS. No holding has acquired controlled or negligible risk status without membership of the SMS to date.

### 3 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SMS

The SMS is administered by the TSE Section in Johnstown Castle, Wexford. A Scheme Register is maintained by the TSE Section, who will publish membership details on the Department's website (except for those members indicating their preference to remain anonymous).

The Scheme is voluntary but requires the involvement of Department Veterinary Inspectors based in local Regional Veterinary Offices (RVO) and in SAT Division in Backweston, Co. Kildare and the flock/herd owner's Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP).

#### 3.1. NEW APPLICATIONS FOR SMS REGISTRATION

- a) A hard copy of the application form is available on request from TSE Section in Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. The application form is also available at [gov.ie - Scrapie Monitoring Scheme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (www.gov.ie)) The application must be completed by the flock/herd owner and their PVP, and returned to **TSE Administration, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford, Y35PN52** by the 30<sup>th</sup> of November annually.
- b) If a flock/herd owner re-applies for participation in the Scheme having not participated in a given year, the application will be treated as new, and on acceptance.
- c) A fee of €130 for new applicants must accompany the completed application. Fees must be paid only by cheque, bank draft or postal order and be made payable to: Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Should an applicant not be accepted into the Scheme, the fee will be refunded in full. All costs arising in connection with the involvement of PVPs in the Scheme (including preliminary) must be borne by the flock/herd owner and paid directly to the PVP.
- d) Successful new applicants will be registered under the Scheme as probationary members with a view to being declared full 'controlled risk' members after 3 years of continuous and satisfactory membership.
- e) A Certificate of Status will be issued by the Department once the correctly completed application renewal form has been received and assessed. The Certificate of Status is valid for 1 year from date of issue.

### 3.2. ANNUAL RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION

- a) A hard copy of the application form is available on request from TSE Section in Johnstown Castle, Wexford. The application form is also available at [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Scrapie Monitoring Scheme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie) The application must be completed by the flock/herd owner and their PVP, and returned to TSE Administration, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford, Y35PN52. The completed application should be returned by the **30<sup>th</sup> November** annually.
- c) If a flock/herd owner re-applies for participation in the Scheme having not participated in a given year, the application will be treated as new.
- d) A fee of €100 must accompany the completed application for renewal of membership. Fees must be paid only by cheque, bank draft or postal order and be made payable to: Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Should renewal not be accepted, the fee will be refunded in full. All costs arising in connection with the involvement of PVPs in the Scheme (including annual inspections) must be borne by the flock/herd owner and paid directly to the PVP.

## 4 RULES AND CONDITIONS

### 4.1. REPORTING OF ANIMALS THAT MAY BE INFECTED WITH SCRAPIE

Scrapie is a notifiable disease under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. Members and applicants should become familiar with the clinical signs of scrapie<sup>1</sup> which include nervous disorder, wasting and/or pruritis (itchiness). Members and/or their PVP must report all animals showing clinical signs of disease similar to scrapie to the Department's local RVO as soon as possible.

For new SMS applicants, membership will not be granted if the flock/herd is restricted for classical scrapie at the time of application. For existing SMS members, membership of the scheme will be withdrawn immediately if a case of classical scrapie is confirmed.

---

<sup>1</sup> Contact your local RVO for further details

## 4.2. INSPECTION OF FLOCKS/HERDS

New applicants to the SMS must have a PVP inspect their flock/herd prior to completion of Section C of the application form.

Existing SMS members should arrange to have their flocks/herds inspected at least once a year by a PVP between the **15<sup>th</sup> of September and before the 28<sup>th</sup> of November**. The PVP must complete Section C of the application form. Flocks/herds and records may also be inspected by an officer of the Department at any reasonable time

## 4.3. MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

### *4.3.1 Movement Of Live Animals Onto A Holding*

Breeding sheep or goats imported from other Member States must be accompanied by an EU Health Certificate in accordance with EU Directive 91/68, which generally provides official confirmation either of the ARR/ARR scrapie genotype of the sheep, or of the scrapie status of the flock/herd of origin/dispatch in the exporting Member State.

Only the following ovine and caprine animals may be introduced **onto a negligible risk** holding:

- animals from holdings with a negligible risk of classical scrapie, or
- ovine animals of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

Only the following ovine and caprine animals may be introduced **onto a controlled risk** holding:

- animals from holdings with a negligible risk of classical scrapie, or
- animals from controlled risk holdings which have met controlled risk criteria for at least the same period of time as the holding where animals are to be introduced;
- ovine animals of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

#### *4.3.2 Movement of Embryos/Ova/Semen onto a holding*

Only the following ovine and caprine embryos/ova/semen may be introduced to negligible/controlled risk holdings:

- embryos/ova/semen from donor animals which have been kept since birth in a Member State with a negligible risk of classical scrapie, or on a holding with a negligible or a controlled risk of classical scrapie, or which meet the following requirements:
  - they are permanently identified to enable trace back to their holding of birth;
  - they have been kept since birth in holdings in which no case of classical scrapie has been confirmed during their residency (embryo/ova donors only);
  - they showed no clinical sign of classical scrapie at the time of embryo/ova/semen collection;
- ovine embryos/oocytes carrying at least one ARR allele, or ovine semen from a ram of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype

The onus is on SMS flock/herd owners to be aware of the consequences that movement of live animals or germinal products (embryos/ova/semen) onto a holding can have on the scrapie status of the recipient flock/herd. If an SMS flock/herd owner receives animals from a source flock which has complied with the SMF conditions for a shorter period of time than the destination flock/herd, then the entire destination flock/herd will be regarded as having complied with these conditions for this shorter period of time.

#### *4.3.3 Movement of Live Animals off a Holding*

Breeding animals from flocks/herds with a controlled or negligible risk status can be traded for breeding to flocks/herds in other EU countries (trade allowed only from negligible risk flocks/herds to Austria, Denmark, Finland, Slovenia & Sweden), and to any flocks/herds in the Republic of Ireland. Animals for immediate slaughter can be traded to all EU countries, and animals for fattening can be traded to all countries except for Austria, Denmark, Finland, Slovenia and Sweden. (Sheep for immediate slaughter and for fattening do not need to comply with SMS rules to be eligible for export) Breeding animals traded from SMS flocks/herds to other EU countries must seek Department veterinary health certification. In addition to flocks/herds with a controlled/negligible risk status, breeding sheep of the ARR/ARR genotype can also be traded for breeding to flocks/herds in other EU countries.

#### *4.3.4 Movement of Animals to Slaughter*

All animals over 18 months of age moved off the holding for slaughter for human consumption must be inspected by an official veterinarian at the slaughter plant, and all those exhibiting wasting signs, neurological signs or sent for emergency slaughter must be tested for classical scrapie.

#### *4.3.5 Movement and Testing of Fallen Stock*

All animals dying on farm must be disposed of through a Department approved knackery as soon as possible after death. It is the flock/herd owners' responsibility to notify the central TSE office that the eligible animal must be scrapie sampled.

Farmers can still continue to notify staff in their local RVO **in addition** to notifying TSE section.

SMS members can contact the central TSE office by telephone at 053 9163437 or email [TSEPaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:TSEPaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie) during office hours **in advance** of the time when the sheep leaves the farm for the knackery.

The Scrapie Monitoring Flock scheme members are still required to:

- notify the knackery operator that the eligible fallen animal requires scrapie testing
- attach a green string tag to identify the eligible fallen animal for scrapie testing
- ensure that each carcass is accompanied by a commercial document.

Where a sheep from a SMS flock is not tested in a knackery, and the farmer has failed to notify DAFM's central office in advance of submission of that sheep, a review will result, with possible loss of the holding's negligible risk or controlled risk status.

## 4.4 RECORD KEEPING

The applicant or member must maintain a flock register as the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) describes and/or a herd register as the National Goat Identification System (NGIS) describes. All records should be maintained up to date and in good condition for a period of 5 years.

The owner must keep written documentation or records as follows:

1. A record of NSIS/NGIS identities of all animals on his/her holding.
2. A record of NSIS/NGIS identities of all animals moved onto his/her holding including:
  - a. the dates of inward movements, the flock/herd name and address from which animals were sourced, the scrapie status of the flock/herd from which

- animals were sourced and duration of such status, i.e. controlled or negligible risk status,
- b. the NGP certificate for ARR/ARR sheep bought within Ireland, if relevant,
  - c. the Scrapie Monitored Reference Number of the flock/herd from which the animals originate within Ireland (for non-ARR/ARR sheep),
  - d. the EU Health Certificate for animals purchased from other EU country, if relevant.
3. A record of NSIS/NGIS identities of all animals moving off the holding including the name and address of destination, and the dates of movements.
  4. A record of the date of death of all animals, the NSIS/NGIS numbers of dead animals, the premises that the dead animals were dispatched to, and the date of scrapie sampling for animals >18 months of age.
  5. Evidence that **all** eligible fallen animals have been tested in the previous year must be available before the flock/herd can be considered for registration for the forthcoming year. You must provide documentary evidence to support correct disposal of sheep at a knackery.

#### 4.5 BIOSECURITY

##### *4.5.1. Segregation of animals in the SMS from other animals*

Members and applicants must prevent co-mingling of SMS animals with animals of a lower SMS status, or animals not involved in the SMS. All animals designated by a flock/herd number must be part of the Scheme. Animals on the holding must have no direct or indirect contact, including shared grazing, with animals from holdings of a lower SMS scrapie status. Stock proof perimeter fences on the SMS holding shall prevent animals from straying on or off of the holding. This requirement also applies to transport of the animals to the point where the sheep or goat moves into a new non-SMS flock/herd.

##### *4.5.2 Rules Governing Attendance At Shows and Sales*

There are no specific rules governing animals belonging to a member of the SMS between the months of May and October for shows and sales within Ireland.

Members should ensure in advance that any show or sale taking place before the 1st May and after the 31st October each calendar year will adhere to the following rules, which should be standard, prior to bringing his/her animals to the show or sale. For sales and shows in other jurisdictions the SMS member will need to contact the relevant competent authority in that MS.



1. The animals attending the show or sale must be segregated into the following groups: -
  - a. Animals from SMS flocks/herds:
    - those with controlled risk status or negligible risk status membership; there must be segregation facilities available for each year group of the controlled risk status attending.
    - those with probationary membership
  - b. Animals from non-SMS flocks/herds.

These categories must be completely segregated at the show or sale.

2. This segregation should, at least, include separation of loading/unloading areas, and penning areas. The number of penning areas will vary due to the number of controlled risk status flocks/herds at different levels attending and should be separated by an animal free alleyway at least twelve feet wide.
3. If only one show or sale ring is available, the sheep/goats from the SMS flocks/herds, commencing with those of the "highest controlled risk status", must be shown or offered for sale first followed by animals of a decreasing "controlled risk status", then probationary members and finally those belonging to non-SMS flocks/herds.
4. Breeding animals, belonging to SMS flocks/herds, must be transported in separate means of transport according to the controlled risk status of the animals from flocks/herds not part of the SMS.

#### *4.5.3 Other requirements and conditions*

The Department may specify particular requirements to be met by a flock/herd owner for the purpose of achieving or maintaining compliance and full membership of the SMS.

The member or applicant must assist his/her PVP and officers of the Department and provide the use of suitable facilities for the purposes of the SMS.

## **5. REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER**

5.1 A flock/herd will be removed from the Register if:

- a. A case of classical scrapie has been confirmed in the flock/herd, subject to epidemiological considerations by the Department
- b. Any of the rules of the SMS, as contained in this document or any amendments thereto, are not obeyed;
- c. Any special requirements that the Department requires to be fulfilled are not met;
- d. Any fees payable under the SMS are not paid on the due date.

A holding that has lost its full membership status may re-apply for membership and must restart the process, starting with the 3 year probationary membership to achieve controlled risk status and progressing to negligible risk status, as long as no case of scrapie has been diagnosed on the premises.

### **5.2 Right of Appeal**

A flock/herd owner may appeal his/her removal from the register in writing to the TSE Section, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford within 28 days of the removal. This appeal will be referred to a Senior Veterinary Inspector for a final adjudication

## **6. GENERAL**

1. The rules and conditions of the Scheme may be altered by the Department at any time and in accordance with the legislation.
2. The owner may withdraw a flock/herd from the Scheme by giving notice in writing to the Department.
3. The Minister will not be liable for expenses, loss or damage arising out of any requirement under the Scheme. Insurance against the risk of disease in the flock/herd is the responsibility of the owner.
4. The decision of the Minister shall be final in all matters relating to the Scheme.
5. It is important to note that this document deals only with the scrapie aspects of EU trade in breeding sheep. Contact your local RVO to enquire about other conditions that must be met when trading breeding sheep to and from other countries (Member States) within the EU.