



## New York Ram Project

May 28, 2008

To: New York State Accredited Veterinarians

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has been working closely with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services to eradicate scrapie. To further our efforts, we are reintroducing our plan, called New York Ram Project, which will offer subsidized testing of rams to identify sheep that carry a scrapie resistance gene.

Genotype testing has been recognized as a way to determine whether a sheep is susceptible to scrapie infection if exposed. Sheep have one set of genes that affects scrapie susceptibility, the PRNP genes. PRNP produces PrPC, a normal cellular prion protein molecule. In infected sheep, PrPC is converted to PrPSC, the scrapie prion protein molecule. PrPSC makes more of itself by causing misfolding of normal cellular prion protein.

Under the New York Ram Project, producers can have **up to 10 rams per flock** tested for reimbursement. To participate in the program, the tests must be performed by **an accredited veterinarian** and submitted to **an approved laboratory** (list enclosed) on a **federal form 5-29**. Results need to be included if they are not indicated on the form. Private veterinarians will be reimbursed **\$15.00 for each ram tested**. The project does not include ewes or goats.

If approved, reimbursement can be obtained for any tests done after January 1 of this year. However, the submission must have been done by an accredited veterinarian to an approved laboratory and one part of the federal 5-29 form must be submitted for reimbursement. 5-29 forms may be obtained from our office.

Please contact the Department at 518-457-3502 if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Huse  
Veterinarian 3