

Type E Justification

Annual Report for FY 2014: 82-R-0002 - Amended

Note: A separate form must be completed for each species and group of animals that will undergo type E procedures for differing purposes. This required information will be reported verbatim to the USDA and available on their website.

Species	Ovine
No. of Animals	35
Description/explanation/purpose of study	
<p>The purpose is to maintain a flock of scrapie infected and exposed sheep of susceptible genotypes to be a source of scrapie infected materials to provide TSE researchers with scrapie infected blood and tissues. A minimum of 50 animals is required to maintain genetic diversity as this is a closed flock, to ensure disease transmission and to assure animals in all stages of scrapie infection/disease are available to prion researchers.</p>	
Scientific or regulatory justification for withholding of pain/distress relief (A justification that merely states that pain relief may interfere with test results is not adequate)	
<p>These sheep are monitored daily for health status and to identify animals developing clinical signs compatible with scrapie. Clinical scrapie presents as weight loss, scraping or rubbing on pen surfaces (presumed to be pruritis or neuritis), ataxia, recumbency and death. Ataxic animals are separated from the herd to avoid possible injury from pen mates and to permit better daily evaluation. With the exception of the wool rubbing period, which generally precedes ataxia, animals exhibit no signs suggestive of discomfort. Animals are permitted to develop ataxia without progressing to recumbency to permit development/accumulation of prion(s) in the brain and lymph tissues prior to harvesting. Pain, if any, in scrapie affected sheep is unknown. Medications to abrogate the clinical signs of ataxia, etc., would be limited to sedatives or anesthetics which would mask the development and monitoring of clinical signs prior to euthanasia interfering with our ability to obtain specimens from all stages of disease.</p>	