



ISSUES

Animal Ag E-Letter (May 2008)

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SCRAPIE PRIONS DETECTED IN BLOOD

Source: American Sheep Institute

Amorfix Life Sciences Ltd. announced this week the detection of endogenous prions in the blood plasma of asymptomatic scrapie-infected sheep. The company had previously reported detecting symptomatic sheep which was a requirement for testing of human variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the United Kingdom (UK).

"Identification of scrapie sheep prior to symptoms is critical for an effective program to eradicate the disease," said George Adams, Ph.D., chief executive officer for Amorfix. "For the first time, we have been able to sort scrapie infected and unaffected sheep using a simple blood test."

Scrapie-infected lambs as early as 17 months of age were detected by the Amorfix EP-TSE(TM) test. Sheep normally show symptoms of scrapie at three years to five years of age. Detection of infected sheep two to three years prior to symptoms will allow effective removal of infected animals before they have the ability to infect other sheep in the flock.