

# **NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF SHEEP IN ICELAND**

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- Identification
- Ear-marking
- Ear-tagging
- Horn-branding
- Traceability
- Isolation zones
- Zone colours
- Disease control
- Eradication of contagious diseases
- Restocking

## TRACEABILITY OF SHEEP IN ICELAND

Identification	Method used	Traced to owner/herd	Traced to parents (ancestry)
Ear-marking (compulsory)	All flocks	X	
Ear-tagging (compulsory)	All flocks	X	X
Horn-branding (optional)	Some flocks	X	X if ID number included

## THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTAGIOUS SHEEP DISEASE IN ICELAND PAST AND PRESENT

Disease	Origin	Diagnosed	Eradicated	Control policy
<b>Jaagziekte</b> (lungs)	Karakul sheep imported 1933	1934	1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory slaughter policy</li> <li>• Isolation zones maintained</li> <li>• Restocking with ewe and ram lambs after one to two years</li> </ul>
<b>Maedi</b> (lungs)	Karakul sheep imported 1933	1939	1965 together with Visna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory slaughter policy</li> <li>• Isolation zones maintained</li> <li>• Restocking with ewe and ram lambs after one to two years</li> </ul>

(Continued)

**THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTAGIOUS SHEEP DISEASE IN ICELAND  
PAST AND PRESENT (Continued)**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Diagnosed</b>	<b>Eradicated</b>	<b>Control policy</b>
<b>Johne´s Disease/</b> Paratuberculosis (intestine)	Karakul sheep imported 1933	1938		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination of all replacement ewe and ram lambs in affected areas</li> <li>• Isolation zones maintained</li> </ul>
<b>Scrapie</b> <sup>1)</sup> (central nervous system)	Oxford Down ram imported 1878	1880		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory slaughter policy of all infected herds</li> <li>• Two to five cases per year</li> <li>• Disinfection of sheep houses</li> <li>• Isolation zones maintained</li> <li>• Restocking with ewe and ram lambs after three years</li> <li>• Several scrapie free areas</li> </ul>

<sup>1)</sup> Genotypes in Iceland: ARQ/ARQ = 75%  
 VRQ/VRQ and VRQ/ARQ = 10-20%  
 AHQ/ARQ and AHQ/AHQ = 5-10%  
 VRQ/AHQ = 1%  
 ARR/ARR is not found

## CONCLUSIONS

Efficient identification systems of sheep in Iceland, combined with the maintenance of Sheep Isolation Zones, contributes substantially to the traceability of live sheep and carcasses as well as the control of contagious diseases nationwide.