

Case of Scrapie Confirmed in North Iceland  
By Vala Hafstað [Iceland Monitor]  
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A case of scrapie was confirmed in a sheep on the farm Stóru-Akrar in Skagafjörður, North Iceland, last week. mbl.is reports. The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority has since been working on mapping further spread of the disease.

According to britannica.com, “Scrapie has a long incubation time, typically between about 18 months and five years following transmission. The first signs to arise are usually behavioral changes such as general apprehensiveness and nervousness. As the disease progresses, the animal loses weight and weakens, develops head and neck tremors, loses muscular coordination, and begins to rub or scrape its body against objects, wearing away its fleece or hair—hence the name ‘scrapie.’ The disease inevitably causes death within one to six months. No treatment or palliative measures are known.”

At a government meeting this morning, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture Kristján Þór Júlíusson gave a report on the status of the matter. “The news is a major blow,” Kristján is quoted as saying in a post on the government’s website. He adds it is clear the damage is substantial.

Full text:

[https://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/news/2020/10/27/case\\_of\\_scrapie\\_confirmed\\_in\\_north\\_iceland/](https://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/news/2020/10/27/case_of_scrapie_confirmed_in_north_iceland/)