

USDA Approved Official Identification Companies for Sheep and Goat ID

Allflex USA, Inc.
PO Box 612266
2805 East 14th Street
Dallas Ft. Worth Airport, TX 75261-2266
Ph: (833) SCRAPIE [833-727-2743]
Fax: (972) 338-3445
Website: www.scrapietags.com
E-mail: scrapiefulfillment@allflexusa.com
(RFID and Plastic eartags in several colors- regular and SFCP)

Alliance ID, USA
2199 Manton Drive
Covington, Louisiana 70433
985-898-0811
800-434-2843
<https://www.microchipidsystems.com>
Email: answers@microchipidsystems.com
Contact: John Wade, DVM

(RFID 840 microchip transponders in syringes. Universal scanners)

EZid, LLC
4412 W 4th Street Road
Greeley, CO 80634
970-351-7701
877-330-3943
<http://www.EZidAvid.com>
Sales@EZidAvid.com
Contact: Elsie McCoy

(RFID - Avid Microchip transponder implants and scanners)

National Band & Tag Company
721 York St., P.O. Box 72430
Newport, KY 41072-0430, USA

Phone: (859) 261-2035
Fax: (859) 261-8247
E-mail: tags@nationalband.com
<http://www.nationalband.com/>
Contacts: Kevin Haas, Sarah Fields

(RFID tags and metal tags in white, green, orange, mauve and bright metal)

USDA Approved Official Identification Companies for Sheep and Goat ID

Premier 1 Supplies LLC
2031 300th St
Washington, IA 52353
Phone: (800) 282-6631
Fax: (800) 346-7992
E-mail: info@premier1supplies.com
Web page: <https://www.premier1supplies.com/c/ear-tags-and-tattoo-supplies/ear-tags-for-usda-scrapie-eradication-program>
Contact: Customer Service
(Plastic eartags in several colors- regular and SFCP)

Shearwell North America Inc
5444 Westheimer
Suite 1000
Houston
TX 77056
Tel - 1-800-778-6014
Email - SalesUSA@shearwell.com
www.shearwell.com

(RFID and Plastic eartags in several colors - regular and SFCP)



Factsheet

National Scrapie Eradication Program: Animal Identification and Recordkeeping Guide for Sheep and Goats

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. There is no cure or treatment for scrapie.

The National Scrapie Eradication Program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has reduced the prevalence of scrapie in adult sheep sampled at slaughter by over 99 percent. However, the cooperation of sheep and goat producers is needed to find and eliminate the last few cases in the United States.

Producers are required to follow Federal and State regulations for officially identifying their sheep and goats. Producers must also keep herd records, showing what new animals were added and what animals left the herd/flock. This guide helps producers follow the regulations.

How to Get Official Eartags

The National Scrapie Eradication Program provides a limited number of free official ear tags to sheep and goat producers. In response to feedback from and collaboration with the sheep and goat industry, APHIS will provide up to 80 free, plastic tags to first time participants in the sheep and goat identification program through fiscal year (FY) 2020. APHIS is working with sheep and goat organizations to transition toward electronic identification to improve our nation's ability to quickly trace exposed and diseased animals in the event of an outbreak. Our goal is to start to transition to electronic identification by fall 2020.

The no-cost metal tags previously provided to producers will be phased out in summer 2019, when the currently obligated funding is expended. During the phase out, APHIS will continue to provide, upon request, up to 100 serial metal tags free of charge to producers (either regular orange metal serial tags or blue slaughter-only metal serial tags) who haven't received APHIS-provided tags within the previous 24 months. Dealers and markets may continue to receive metal serial tags at no cost through FY 2020.

To find out if you are eligible for the free tags or to get a flock ID assigned to your flock so you can buy official tags, call 866-USDA-TAG (873-2824). Producers who prefer another type or color of tag or need more tags may purchase official tags directly from approved manufacturers to fit their needs. See the "Approved Tag Manufacturers" section below for more information.

Animals Requiring Identification

The animals listed below are required by Federal* and/or State regulations to be identified as part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program when they move between States as part of interstate commerce or if ownership changes. Some states have identification (ID) requirements that are stricter than federal requirements, so the exceptions listed below do not apply in all States. For information on each State's ID and movement requirements, contact the State Veterinarian's office.

All sheep and goats must have official ID when moving off their premises of origin, EXCEPT*

- Sheep or goats moving with a group ID and owner/hauler statement. This includes:
 - Sheep and goats under 18 months of age in slaughter channels;
 - Sheep and goats of any age shipped directly to a slaughter establishment or a federally approved market that has agreed to act as an agent for the owner to apply official ID and when all the animals in a section of a truck are from the same flock of origin; or
 - Sheep or goats moved for grazing or similar management reasons without a change of ownership when the animals are moved from a premises owned or leased by the owner of the animals to another premises owned or leased by the owner of the animals. The premises must be recorded in the National Scrapie Database as additional flock premises and commingling must not occur with unidentified animals born in another flock or any animal not part of the flock.
- Castrated sheep under 18 months of age.
- Sheep or goats moving within a State that have only resided on premises and in flocks in the same State and where the animals and premises are owned by persons who do not engage in the interstate commerce of sheep or goats and where the sheep or goats are of a class exempted from official ID by the State while in intrastate commerce.
- Sheep or goats moving within a state to a facility where the animals will be officially identified with official ID assigned to the owner.

Official Identification

Official identification devices, including ear tags and injectable transponders, must be approved by APHIS as being sufficiently tamper-resistant for the intended use, have good retention, and provide a unique identification number for each animal.

An owner may substitute tattooing for an official identification device under certain criteria, which are explained in the "Tattooing" section on the next page.

**For more details on exemptions to the Federal sheep and goat identification requirements, review the regulation at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie*

Tips for Tagging

- Sheep and goats only need to be officially identified when leaving the premises or when being sold to another owner.
- Do not buy or sell animals of any age that may be used for breeding, or animals over 18 months of age for any purpose, unless they are officially identified.
- The preferred placement for metal eartags in wool sheep is in the left ear, about a third of the way down from the head – where it is more visible and easier to keep out of the way when shearing. This reduces the risk of the tag being struck by the shears and potentially damaging the headpiece or injuring the animal or the operator. For young lambs, leave enough space for growth by leaving one-third of the tag overhanging the edge of the ear.

Official tags may not be sold or given to another person. If you no longer need the tags, they should be destroyed or returned to the APHIS Veterinary Services District Field Office for your State. Locations for field offices can be found online at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/contact-us>

Approved Tag Manufacturers

APHIS has approved several companies to manufacture and sell official devices, including tags and injectable transponders. Producers should consider the different devices available—including metal or plastic tags, radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, RFID implants (there are restrictions on the use of implants**)—and choose what works best for them. For the list of approved tag manufacturers, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie (click on “Sheep and Goat Identification”).

Tattooing

Registered animals may be identified with a registration tattoo instead of a tag, as long as the animal is accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate issued by an approved registry listing the current owner or the registration certificate and a completed transfer of ownership form dated within 30 days that lists the current owner. If the registry you use is not approved, you can still use your tattoos if you provide your tattoo prefix and registry to APHIS for inclusion in your flock record and include a copy of your confirmation email or letter with the animal.

In addition, the flock identification number assigned by APHIS may be tattooed (along with an individual animal number) to officially identify sheep or goats that are not registered. If you have a registered herd prefix, you may request that APHIS assign it as part of your flock identification number.

Tattoos may not be used as the sole form of official ID for animals moving to slaughter or through a livestock market**.

***For more details on the restrictions on the use of implants and tattoos see the NSEP Standards at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie*

****For a list of approved registries see the list at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie*

Owners must ensure the legibility of tattoos. Owners should also be prepared to assist with the tattoo reading process, including using a flashlight or other light source to assist with reading when animals are inspected.

Recordkeeping

Records must be kept for 5 years after the animal is sold or otherwise disposed. Ideally, producers should keep records in an electronic format, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. You must record the following information:

When you apply official ID:

- The flock ID number of the flock of origin, the name and address of the person who currently owns the animals, and the name and address of the owner of the flock of origin, if different;
- The name and address of the owner of the flock of birth, if known, for animals born in another flock and not already identified to flock of birth;
- The date the animals were officially identified;
- The number of sheep and the number of goats identified;
- The breed and class (i.e. cull ewes, feeder lambs, breeding does etc.) of the animals. If breed is unknown, for sheep the face color and for goats the type (milk, fiber, or meat) must be recorded instead;
- The official ID numbers**** applied to animals by species or the Group Identification Number (GIN) applied in the case of a group/lot;
- Whether the animals were identified with “Slaughter Only” or “MEAT” identification devices; and
- Any GIN with which the animal was previously identified.

When you buy or sell animals:

- The number of animals purchased, sold, or transferred without sale;
- The date of purchase, sale, or other transfer;
- The name and address of the person from whom the animals were purchased or otherwise acquired, or to whom they were sold or otherwise transferred;
- The species, breed, and class of animal, and if breed is unknown, for sheep the face color and for goats the type (milk, fiber, or meat) must be recorded instead;
- A copy of the brand inspection certificate for animals identified with registered brands or ear notches;
- A copy of any certificate or owner/hauler statement required for movement of the animals purchased, sold, or otherwise transferred.

*****The official identification number is the complete number on the official USDA sheep/goat tag, official tattoo, or approved RFID device. It is acceptable to list the first and last number in a sequential series, rather than each individual number.*

More Information

For more information about scrapie or the National Scrapie Eradication Program, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie.

If you have questions, contact the APHIS Veterinary Services Office for your State

(<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/contact-us>)

or your State Animal Health Office

(http://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/StateAnimalHealthOfficials_rev.pdf).

What's New in Sheep ID?

March 25, 2019 Federal Regulation Changes

Group/Lot ID and Owner/Hauler Statement are required for:

- Sheep and goats in slaughter channels (except wethers under 18 months of age)
- Sheep and goats not in slaughter channels that do not have an official eartag or other official ID (except wethers under 18 months of age).

Other changes include:

If you engage in interstate commerce:

(WHICH MEANS if you move sheep or goats interstate or offer to sell them to out of state buyers including through a market, or buy sheep or goats that originated in another state); YOU NEED TO:

- officially identify sheep and goats that you later sell (if they are a class that requires official ID) prior to moving them; or
- take your official tags and have them applied at another site in-state before changing ownership; or
- take your sheep and goats to a federally approved market to be tagged with market tags.

Call 866-USDA-TAG to
get official tags and
Tag it!

If you own a premise where interstate commerce of goats or sheep occurs:

(DEFINED AS: a premises which receives sheep or goats that have been in interstate commerce or from which sheep or goats move in interstate commerce)

- Sheep or goats (of a class that requires official ID) that are not already officially identified need to be officially identified when they are unloaded.

Moving sheep or goats that are not in Slaughter channels?

Official Individual ID (official eartag, registry or flock ID tattoo, or official Electronic Implantable ID) is required for sheep and goats in interstate commerce moving for purposes other than slaughter with some exceptions.¹

There are additional requirements for use of tattoos and implants. View the presentation at www.EradicateScrapie.org for more information. Official eartags, rather than other forms of official ID, are required for sheep and goats moving through markets or buying stations.

Created for the Goat Industry by staff at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine and NIAA Staff with support from the USDA NSEP.

Do not buy or sell sheep or goats 18 months of age or older for any purpose unless they have official ID¹.

Moving sheep or goats in slaughter channels?

- Complete an Owner/Hauler Statement to accompany the animals (except wethers under 18 months of age); and
- Eartag sheep and goats 18 months of age or older unless moving them as a single source group/lot.

NOTE: Tattoos and electronic implants may not be used to officially ID sheep or goats that are in slaughter channels or that are moving through a livestock market or buying station.

¹Exceptions to individual official ID requirement:

- Wethers under 18 months of age: NO ID or Owner/Hauler Statement required.
- Sheep or goats in slaughter channels under 18 months of age accompanied by an Owner/Hauler Statement and Group/Lot ID (may be mixed source).
- Sheep or goats moving as a single source group/lot accompanied by an Owner/Hauler Statement to:
 - >an approved livestock market.
 - >slaughter establishment.
 - >other premises of the flock listed in the National Scrapie Database, or
 - >another site in-state where they will be officially identified prior to change of ownership.

Q. Sheep or goat crossing a state line and not in slaughter channels?

A. Get an ICVI: Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued by an Accredited Veterinarian.

Exceptions:

- wethers under 18 months of age;
- sheep or goats moving to another premises of the same flock listed in the National Scrapie Database;
- sheep or goats moving to a federally approved market.

Note: Some states also require an ICVI for in-state shows and wethers for exhibition.

A record must be made when official ID is applied to a sheep or goat, or a sheep or goat is acquired or disposed.

The record must be kept for five years after the animal dies or is no longer owned by you.

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