

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 by over 85 percent. To find and eliminate the last few cases in the United States, the cooperation of sheep and goat producers throughout the country is needed.

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 is intended to help producers follow the regulations.

APHIS provides official plastic or metal eartags free of charge to producers. Producers may request free tags by calling 866-USDA-TAG (873-2824). In addition, producers may purchase tags directly from approved manufacturers to fit their needs. See the "Approved Tag Manufacturers" section below for more information.

Animals Requiring Identification

The following animals* are required by Federal and/or State regulations to be identified as part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program when they move in interstate commerce or ownership changes:

Sheep

- All sheep, EXCEPT
 - Sheep under 18 months of age in slaughter channels
 - Castrated sheep under 18 months of age

Goats

- All goats, EXCEPT
 - Low-risk commercial goats** exempted by the State in which they reside
 - Goats in slaughter channels
 - Castrated goats

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

**The definition of a low-risk commercial goat is: a goat that is raised for fiber and/or meat; is not registered or exhibited; has not been exposed to sheep; is not scrapie-positive, scrapie-exposed, or high-risk for scrapie; is not from a scrapie-infected or source herd; and does not reside in California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, or Michigan.

In addition, intrastate sheep and goat identification requirements vary from State to State. Some States require additional animals to be officially identified, while other States exempt certain animals while in intrastate commerce. For the most current information on each State's identification and movement requirements, visit www.eradicatescrapie.org.

Official Identification

Official identification devices, including eartags 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.

Obtaining Official Tags

To request free tags or ask questions, call 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824). For registered herds, please provide the herd's registration prefix and ask that it be used as your scrapie flock/herd identification number, along with your postal abbreviation. Tags may also be purchased directly from approved tag manufacturers. See next page for additional information.

All official National Scrapie Eradication Program identification tags have the U.S. shield printed on them.

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 animals of any age that may be used for breeding or animals over 18 months of age for any purpose unless they have official identification applied.
- If you are selling or buying breeding animals, they need to be officially identified prior to or at the time of sale.

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.

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 radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, RFID implants, metal tags, or plastic tags—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 listing the current owner.

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.

Owners must ensure the legibility of tattoos. Owners should also be prepared to assist with the tattoo reading process, including providing light to assist with reading.

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:

- official identification number
- breed
- sex
- date official identification was applied
- date animal was acquired or year of birth if natural addition
- name/address of previous owner (if applicable)
- date sold
- name/address of buyer

The official identification number is the complete number on the official USDA sheep/goat tag, official tattoo, or approved RFID device. If selling a group of animals that are tagged with sequential numbers, it is acceptable to list the first and last number in the series, rather than each individual number.

More Information

For more information about scrapie or the National Scrapie Eradication Program, please visit the following Web sites:

- **USDA APHIS**
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie
- **National Institute for Animal Agriculture**
www.eradicatescrapie.org
- **American Sheep Industry Association**
www.sheepusa.org
- **American Goat Federation Web site**
www.americangoatfederation.org

If you have questions, contact the APHIS Veterinary Services District Field Office for your State (www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/vs_poc.pdf) or your State animal health office (www.usaha.org/portals/6/stateanimalhealthofficials.pdf).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To Order Eartags

To receive official sheep and goat ear tags for interstate movement:

Contact The VS offices in Pickerington, OH at toll free 866-873-2824 and request a flock identification number.

- If you want to use USDA ear tags that are provided free to producers, request the number of tags that you will need for a two year period. SCFP enrolled flocks in Ohio should send their tag order request to our office.
- If you would prefer to purchase a different kind of ear tag, contact one of the approved tag companies listed below to purchase the ear tags. Approved ear tag companies offer a wider range of colors and styles.

Officially Approved Tag Companies (6/1/2013)

AllFlex USA, Inc. PO Box 612266 2805 East 12th Street Dallas Ft. Worth Airport, TX 75261-2266 Ph: (972) 456-3686 Fax: (972) 456-3882 http://www.allflexusa.com E-mail: bbrown@allflexusa.com Contact: Ms. Bridges Brown (972) 456--328
(Plastic and RFID eartags only)
Global Animal Management/Geissler Technologies 556 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901 Phone: (800) 235-9824 E-mail: gamsupport@mygamonline.com http://www.mygamonline.com/gamweb/ Contact: Dr. Michael Coe
(RFID tags only)
Hasco Tag Company PO Box 74130 Dayton, KY 41074-0130 Phone: (859) 261-6000 Fax: (859) 261-6002 E-mail: hasco_tags@fuse.net http://www.hascotag.com/ Contacts: Mr. Tom Haas, Ms. Linda Girkin, and Ms. Cheri Willis
(Metal eartags only)
Premier Sheep Supplies, Ltd. 2031 300th Street Washington, IA 52353 Phone: (800) 282-6631 Fax: (800) 346-7992 E-mail: ssexton@premier1supplies.com http://www.premier1supplies.com/ Contact: Ms. Stephanie Sexton
(Plastic and RFID eartags)

National Band and Tag Company 721 York Street, P.O. Box 72430 Newport, KY 41072-0430 Phone: (859)-261-2035 Fax: 1-800-261-8247 E-mail: tags@nationalband.com http://www.nationalband.com Contact: Mr. Kevin Haas
(RFID tags only)

- All five eartag companies are officially approved and eartags provided by these companies are approved for the official identification of sheep and goats in interstate commerce. AllFlex, Global Management, National Band and Tag, Geissler Technologies, and Premier offer official approved RFID tags. Metal, tamper resistant tags are available in various colors from Hasco. Plastic, tamper-evident tags are available from Premier and AllFlex. Producers are required to pay for all plastic tags, **except** Allflex tags under contract and RFID tags provided for regulatory purposes. Only AllFlex, Premier, Geissler Technologies, National Band and Tag have tamper-evident tags that are also approved for use in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program.



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Animal and
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Inspection
Service

Veterinary
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OH District 3
Office
Scrapie Dept.

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Stonecreek
Drive, NW

Pickerington,
OH 43147-8424
(614) 856-4735

Toll Free 866-
873-2824

fax 614-866-
1086

OHIO DISTRICT 3 OFFICE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Do I have to identify all my animals at once?

Answer: No. As of November 19, 2001, some of the animals entering interstate commerce require official identification. That means only certain animals that leave a farm have to be identified. Examples of interstate commerce, which animals must be identified, and what kinds of identification are considered official will be addressed in the questions below.

Why do I have to do this?

Scrapie is a fatal degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is one of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) diseases, which also include BSE in cattle ("Mad Cow Disease") and CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) in cervids (deer and elk). These diseases and have received a lot of attention with the emergence of a new variant form of CJD which affects people. The goal is to eradicate scrapie from the US to lessen losses to the sheep and goat industry and promote exports. Similar to disease eradication programs for other species, the official identification is needed to trace animals from infected flocks as well as flocks whose scrapie risk has not been defined. Identification and record keeping of animals in commerce is essential for the success of a disease eradication program.

What are examples of interstate commerce or interstate movement?

1. Trade, transportation, etc. between a place in a State and any place outside of that State
2. Animals sold at livestock markets or to licensed dealers
3. Sexually intact sheep/goats going to a show or offered for sale where animals and buyers from other states may also be present.

Note: OH interprets county and independent fairs and festivals as points of interstate commerce.

**THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS
STATES, SALES OR SHOWS MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE, SO CHECK
PRIOR TO MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS!**

Which Animals need to be identified?

For a sheep producer:

1. Cull ewes/rams/wethers - 18 months and older or who have been pregnant – must be officially identified.
2. Intact sheep of **any age** exhibited or offered for sale **must** have official ID. An ICVI (Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) is usually required to move across state lines.

Note: Feeder and slaughter lambs less than 18 months old moving to Ohio markets or slaughter plants do not need to be officially identified unless required by market/plant management

Note: If you are selling to markets in other states, you should contact those markets for their policies/requirements.

For a goat producer: *(These answers reflect OH State requirements, which mean they are more restrictive than the federal requirements)*

Intact goats of **any age** and **wethers over 18 months** of age exhibited or offered for sale must be officially identified.

Note: **OH Slaughter Goats** of any age or breed are not required to be identified currently but we are recommending that adult goats going to livestock markets or slaughter plants be officially identified.

Note: Some markets are not able to separate slaughter from non-slaughter sales, and may therefore require ID on all animals!

Who will have these Official Identification Tags?

In Ohio the tags will be provided to market personnel, dealers, veterinarians, and producers. If you have been assigned tags, **DO NOT** give them to someone else. These tags are assigned to specific flocks/herds, and will be used to trace animals back to its flock/herd of birth and origin. Veterinarians are required to report the owner's name and address where they applied their assigned tags.

What are my options?

1. Order enough tags for the culls you expect to sell in the next two years. Identify sheep/goats before you load them and send them to market with all ID listed on an Owner Shipper Form (an example is enclosed).
2. Order enough tags to identify all your sheep/goats for a two year period.
3. Have your veterinarian apply tags to your sheep/goats before they leave your farm.

What sort of identification is considered official?

1. Tattoos -

b. **Purchased tags** - Tags of different styles and colors are available from Allflex, Global Animal Management/Geissler Technologies, Hasco Tag Company, National Band and Tag Company, and Premier Sheep Supplies, Ltd. In order to purchase tags direct from a company, you **must contact our office and have a flock ID assigned**. The shipping information must be current for the tag company to fill the order.

How do I get tags?

1. Ohio producers will order the free tags through the USDA office in Pickerington, OH by calling 614-856-4745 or toll free 1-866-USDATAG (1-866-873-2824); fax order form to 614-866-1086 or email vs0h@aphis.usda.gov
2. Complete the enclosed order form. Fill in the appropriate boxes to request the free tags or request a flock ID letter so you can order directly from one of the tag companies listed above for purchased tags.

Note: Please include your flock ID on the form for **repeat** orders of free tags

What records must I keep?

Many of the required records are already kept by sheep/goat producers. Because scrapie has a long incubation time, the regulations are written to require you to keep these records for **five years**. The list of required information includes:

- a. When applying tags –
 - 1) Date tags are applied
 - 2) Number of animals identified and the IDs put on them- match these numbers to your other flock records
 - 3) The flock of birth of the sheep/goats, if not born in your flock
- b. For purchased animals –
 - 1) Date animals are acquired
 - 2) Name address, and phone number of person or sale you acquired them from
 - 3) Number of animals you purchased and the IDs on them
- c. For animals you sell-
 - 1) Date of sale
 - 2) The name, address, phone number of purchaser
 - 3) The number of animals sold and the IDs on those animals

Does this have anything to do with the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP)?

Answer: NO - The SFCP started in 1991 and was revised on June 20, 2013. It is a voluntary program within APHIS Veterinary Services designed to monitor flocks and certify flocks that have been free of evidence of scrapie over a specified time period. Information regarding this program can be found on our USDA APHIS website. The official identification required for the SFCP meets the mandatory requirements for interstate commerce. SFCP tags may have a map of the US with "SFCP" inside it, or the "US shield" and "SFCP" printed on the tag.

Additional Information

a. If you have registered animals, your registration tattoo is considered official identification **when it is legible and the animal is moved with its original registration certificate in hand.**

Note: We try to link your registry prefix (if the prefix is available) to a flock ID and enter you into the scrapie database.

b. If you have non-registered animals or move animals without their registration certificate you **must contact our office and have a flock ID assigned.** Once you have a flock ID in our database, you can move with the assigned flock ID tattooed in one ear (usually R-ear) and the individual animal number in the opposite ear. The animal number is assigned by the owner but **must be unique to each animal!**

Note: Nursing Kids present at exhibitions or sales must be tattooed by two (2) weeks of age.

2. Electronic implants – only approved as official id for animals in specific registries that are moved with their original registration certificate. The implant number must be printed on the certificate **and** the owner must have a reader available for verification.

3. Tags – official tags will have “US” inside the USDA shield, and specific numbering on the female side of tag. All flocks and herds will have an assigned USDA flock ID (for example OH#####). Some tags will have this flock ID listed on the tag; some will not. Regardless, all tags are listed in our database so trace-back activities can occur!

a. **Free tags** - provided by USDA; one free tagger provided. Tags can be used on both species!

1) White metal tags from Hasco

a) Serial numbered - Next sequential computer generated numbers (usually 8 characters). Smaller orders (less than 100) will be filled from our office supply and are usually filled within 1 week.

b) Flock style - (USDA assigned flock ID and unique animal number). A minimum order of 100 tags is required. These orders can take 3-4 weeks since they are filled and shipped by the tag company.

2) White plastic tamper evident tags from Allflex

a) Serial numbered – (example: OHA12345 for an OH flock). Smaller orders (less than 20) will be filled from our office supply and are usually filled within 1 week.

b) Flock style - (USDA assigned flock ID and unique animal number) - These orders can take 3-4 weeks since they are filled and shipped by the tag company.

SHEEP AND GOAT EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS
From The Ohio Department of Agriculture

6/18/04

NO PERSON MAY REMOVE OR TAMPER WITH OFFICIAL SHEEP AND GOAT IDENTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 9 CFR PART 79.2

In order for Ohio to maintain Consistent State Status, Ohio sheep and goat exhibitions will be considered Interstate Commerce.

- A. Requirements for bringing sheep and goats into Ohio for exhibition, sale or breeding
1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the opening date of the exhibition.
 2. CVI must be signed by the owner and the veterinarian attesting to the following statement: The sheep/goats in this shipment are not known to be under any movement restrictions because of scrapie. @
 3. Show no evidence of infectious or contagious disease.
 4. All sheep and goats must be identified with official USDA identification (USDA approved sheep tags, USDA approved tattoos, or identification in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program)
 5. If the animal was born after January 1, 2002, it must have official USDA sheep/goat identification and be identified to the flock of birth.
- B. Identification requirements for sexually intact sheep and goats moving within Ohio for exhibition including sales
1. Official USDA sheep/goat identification in the form of an approved tag or tattoo
 2. If the animal was born after January 1, 2002, it must have official USDA sheep/goat identification and be identified to the flock of birth either by an eartag or tattoo placed by the owner of the flock of birth, or a tag or tattoo placed by the purchaser.
 3. The identification requirements for flocks enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program qualify as official USDA identification for exhibition and interstate movement; no other special identification is needed.
- Ohio sheep and goat wethers that are less than 18 months of age exhibited in Ohio do not require USDA identification.
- C. An Exhibition means any public show of animals which is sponsored by or under the control of an Ohio county or independent agricultural society OR the Ohio State Fair OR which is assembled for a period which exceeds 36 hours OR contains animals of origins other than Ohio.
- Includes show lamb and goat sales, consignment sales of livestock and jackpot shows
- D. Responsibilities of an exhibition sponsor (includes show lamb and goat sales, consignment sales of livestock and jackpot shows):
1. Must have an approved veterinarian
 2. Buildings, pens, stalls, rings and other enclosures in which animals are to be quartered for exhibition must be cleaned and disinfected prior to the exhibition under the direction of the approved veterinarian.
 3. The approved veterinarian is required to:
 - a. Examine CVI when required; and
 - b. Inspect livestock for infectious or contagious diseases within a reasonable time of arrival; and
 - c. Inspect livestock daily.
 4. May order the immediate removal of any animal which, in the opinion of the approved veterinarian, places other animals at unacceptable risk of disease.
 5. Maintain a record for one year from the date of the exhibition of each animal present at the exhibit. **Sheep and goat sale records must be kept for 5 years. (see (F) below)**
- E. For livestock purchased at an exhibition and moved out of state, an accredited veterinarian must issue a certificate of veterinary inspection before the animal moves across the state line.
- F. The Code of Federal Regulations requires that sheep and goat sale records be kept for 5 years by the seller, the buyer and the exhibition/sale sponsor. The records must contain the following information:
1. Name and address of the seller, telephone number if available; and
 2. Name and address of the buyer, telephone number if available; and
 3. Official identification when required as indicated in part A and B of these requirements; and
 4. Date of sale.

Any additional information can be obtained through contacting our office. For questions regarding the mandatory tag issue, there is a toll free number available to anyone in the United States. It will transfer you directly to the USDA APHIS VS office within your state. That phone number is 1-866-USDA-Tag. The VS scrapie webpage can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/. Then select scrapie in the list of animal diseases. This page has various information including lists of each state's SFCP flocks, Non-Compliant flocks, and a Producer Notification Report of flocks with insufficient records to trace out animal movements.

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