

## Please Register Your Goat Herd To Obtain Scrapie Tags!



In an effort to eradicate scrapie in the United States, USDA requires goats to have herd identification ear tags that list their herd of origin. Enforcement of these rules is now in effect in Colorado and the tags are easily available to producers.

### **Goats required to have herd ID's:**

- Due to code of federal regulations (CFR) rule change, goats in the United States are required to be officially identified as of April 25, 2019. This includes: all commercial goats and registered goats, sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older not in slaughter channels.
- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals moving to slaughter.
- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months and older for show or exhibition and do not have a registration tattoo with registration papers or the tattoo is illegible.

To obtain tags, owners must contact the USDA APHIS Area Veterinary Services at 1-866-USDA-TAG for a herd identification number. APHIS will also assist owners who obtain a first time herd ID with ordering a limited number of plastic Scrapie tags at no charge.

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Infected flocks that contain a high percentage of susceptible animals can experience significant production losses. Over a period of several years the number of infected animals increases, and the age at onset of clinical signs decreases making these flocks economically unviable. Animals sold from infected flocks spread scrapie to other flocks.

**For more information on scrapie or animal disease please call the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Veterinarians Office @ 303-869-9130.**