

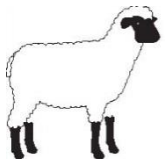


Official Identification for Sheep and Goats

In an effort to eradicate scrapie in the United States, USDA requires sheep and goats to have official flock identification ear tags that list their flock of origin. Enforcement of these rules are now in effect as the tags are readily available to producers.

Animals required to have USDA Official flock/herd ID tags:

Sheep

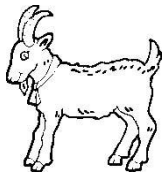


- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age.
- All wethers 18 months of age and older, upon change of ownership.
- All sexually intact pet sheep regardless of age, wethers over 18 months of age, upon change of ownership. This does not exclude owners with pet wethers under 18 months of age from maintaining records for 5 years.
- All cull sheep 18 months or older moving to slaughter.
- All slaughter untagged sheep under 18 month of age (feeder lambs) in slaughter channels must have an owner/hauler statement. **(Exception for wethers, that are less than 18 months of age.)**

Show or Exhibition Sheep

- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age for show or exhibition.
- All wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition.
- **Note:** Some States, shows or exhibitions may require wethers under 18 months of age to be officially identified. Please check prior to the show you are intending to participate.
- All breeding sheep regardless of age.

Goats



- All goats sexually intact regardless of age.
- All wethers 18 months of age and older, upon change of ownership.
- All sexually intact pet goats regardless of age, wethers over 18 months of age, upon change of ownership. This does not exclude owners with pet wethers under 18 months of age from maintaining records for 5 years.
- All cull goats 18 months or older moving to slaughter.
- All slaughter untagged goats under 18 months of age (feeder goats) in slaughter channels must have an owner/hauler statement. **(Exception for wethers, that are less than 18 months of age.)**

Show or Exhibition Goats

- All goats sexually intact regardless of age for show or exhibition. If tattooed, must be accompanied by registration papers showing matching tattoo.
- All wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition.
- **Note:** Some States, shows or exhibitions may require wethers under 18 months of age to be officially identified. Please check prior to the show you are intending to participate.
- All breeding goats regardless of age.
- Due to USDA 9 CFR rule change in the United States, all goats in the United States are to be officially identified. Please refer to USDA Rule 9 CFR or National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) Standards on the USDA website.

**Registered meat and dairy goats may use tattoos that are legible and correlated with breed registration numbers until they are sent to slaughter when an official flock ID tag will be required.

Cull breeding sheep and goats destined for slaughter will be tested for scrapie. During the scrapie surveillance program, the ID tags will be collected to accompany the test sample and used to trace an animal that tests positive for scrapie back to its infected flock. Flock/herd owners will be advised individually to help them with scrapie disease control and eradication. All exposed goats are at risk. All exposed genetically susceptible sheep are at risk.



*****Owner/Hauler Statement:** Sheep or goats moving in slaughter channels or direct to slaughter without official identification **must** have an Owner/Hauler Statement with group/lot identification (**Exception for wethers that are less than 18 months of age**). See 9 CFR and NESP Standards for further definition. (See Colorado Department of Agriculture or United States Department of Agriculture websites for template of Owner/Hauler Statement to use or copy.)

Keeping Records

Records on purchases must be maintained for five years for disease investigation purposes. When selling sheep and goats at the livestock market, owners should have flock ID numbers, physical address and phone recorded on the market check-in document.

Buyers

Sheep and goat buyers should maintain records five years on the number of animals acquired; the date of acquisition; the name, address and phone number of the person from whom they were purchased; and their flock of origin ID numbers. Livestock barns tagging sheep and goats with their flock ID tags are required to comply with record keeping requirements.

Sellers

Individuals who sell or dispose of sheep and goats should maintain records five years of the number of animals sold and disposed; the date of sale; the name, address and phone number of the buyer or person who acquired the animals; and the flocks of origin ID numbers and their individual numbers.

To obtain flock, herd/premises ID, owners must contact the **APHIS Area Veterinary Services at (866)-USDA-TAG** for a flock identification number. APHIS will also assist owners who obtain a first time flock ID may be able to order a limited number of plastic Scrapie tags at no charge. Sale barns will also be assigned metal serial tags that are white metal and/or blue metal slaughter only tags to identify sheep and goats.

Contacts:

Colorado Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Division
Colorado Department of Agriculture
303-869-9130
www.colorado.gov/aganimals

U.S. Department of Agriculture
APHIS Area Veterinary Services
303-231-5385
www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth