



US AIP Goat Working Group Report

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- Overview of Current Goat ID Methods
- Issues Industry Faces
- Recommendations
- Successful Implementation
- Committee Structure



Overview of Current Goat ID Methods

- Unique Registration tattoos
- Premises ID tattoos
- Plastic and Metal Ear tags
- Electronic Implants
- Ultimate goal = visible and RFID identification



Identification Programs

- Registration Numbers and Identification Methods
- DHI Identification
- Herd Management Identification
- Scrapie Eradication Program (mandatory)
- Scrapie Flock Certification Program (voluntary)



Goal: Merge these existing systems into a National Animal Identification System

Issues Facing Industry

- Multi uses for goats: Meat, Dairy, Fiber, Pets, Hiking/Packing, Brush Clearing, Biotechnology
- Large number of goats in small herds
- Industry acceptance of need for ID program
- ID for Scrapie Eradication program already in place
- Cost of program versus value per head – economic viability
- Tag retention due to thinness of ear, nature of browsing habits, curiosity of goats
- One breed with very tiny ears that does not allow traditional ear tag usage



Recommendations

- Continue with current approved ID being used for Scrapie program, and incorporate into National System Standards
- Conduct field trials to fully test with different breeds and managements
- Request that USDA approve site for electronic implants
- Provide approved devices to producers
- Allow Group Lot ID when applicable



Successful Implementation

- Allow flexibility with ID methods beyond phase-in period
- Continued involvement with industry representatives as plan develops
- Work with registries to integrate with existing structures
- Incorporate existing production/management information and current industry practices to ensure greater participation
- Implement reasonable record keeping requirements
- Protect producer confidentiality of records
- Initiate comprehensive educational effort that targets specific groups such as producers, markets and consumers
- Work with global trading partners



Committee Structure

Our goal is to seek input from individuals that represent owners and partners involved with of all components of goat usage and handling.

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At the end of the day...



...we hope to have a uniform system that meets the goals of protecting U.S. animal agriculture, while preserving the economic viability of the producers; protecting confidentiality of information; and providing an effective and accurate means of identifying our animals.

Thank you.