

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 premises 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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