

APHIS PROVIDES OFFICIAL METAL TAGS FREE OF CHARGE CALL 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824).

For registered herds, *provide the herd's registration prefix* and ask that it be used as your scrapie flock/herd identification number, along with your postal abbreviation. All official National Scrapie Eradication Program identification tags have the U.S. shield printed on them.

Tags may also be purchased directly from approved tag manufacturers. There are several available devices—including radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, RFID implants, metal tags, or plastic tags: Producers should choose what works best for them.

For a list of approved manufacturers, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie
(click on "Sheep and Goat Identification").



Tips for Tagging

- Goats only need to be officially identified when leaving the premises or when being sold to another owner.
- Do not buy goats of any age that may be used for breeding, or goats over 18 months of age for any other purpose unless they have official identification applied.
- Do not, for any reason, remove a Scrapie tag.
- If you are selling or buying breeding goats, they need to be officially identified prior to or at the time of sale.

Do not sell or give your Official tags to another person. If you no longer need the tags, they must be destroyed or returned to your State APHIS Veterinary Services District Field Office.

Recordkeeping

Records must be kept for 5 years after the goat 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:

- official identification number
- breed
- sex
- date official identification was applied
- date animal was acquired if bought, or year of birth
- 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 goat tag, official tattoo, or approved RFID device. If selling a group of goats that are tagged with sequential numbers, it is acceptable to list the first and last number in the series, rather than each individual number.