APPLYING EAR TAGS

There are two types of tips on ear tags:
The metal Tip tags are much easier to apply as
They take less pressure to pierce the ear.

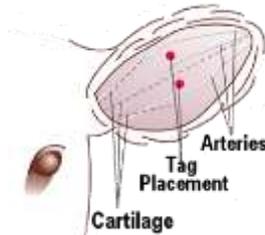1. Metal tip: 2. Plastic Tip:
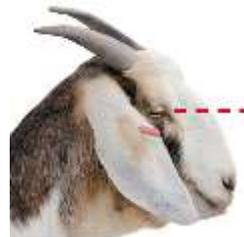
It is best to apply tags as shown here:
Infection usually occurs more often in adult
goat because their ears tend to be dirtier.
Ears on young kids (particularly 3-4 days
old) are less likely to become infected from
tagging.   Using a disinfectant when tagging
will decrease the incidence of infection.

Arteries
Tag Placement
Cartilage

When applying a RFID Ear Tag, the micro-
chip goes on the inside part of the ear. The
chip is usually on the female part and will be
thicker than the other part.

Wrap-around tags are applied with the point going in from the outside of the
ear so that they are closer to the ear's edge.

On long eared goats, place
the tag either above or
below the level of the eye.
The tag may need to be
applied to the back of the
ear on older goats.

Watch a video on applying ear tags:
https://AmericanGoatFederation.org/2021/01/14/goat-identification/

Steps to Help Prevent Infections from Tags:
1. Tag goats when they're kids.
2. Don't insert tags in fly season.
3. If you live in a humid climate, tag in the winter.
4. Don't place tags close to the skull.
5. Tag when the ear is dry and clean.
6. Keep tags in clean, closed container until used.
7. Apply an antibiotic, a fly repellent and/or a
   disinfectant to the ear or tag.

Steps to Help Prevent Lost Tags:
1. Follow the tagging diagram above.
2. Wait until goats are older to tag them.
3. Use smaller tags.
4. If you don't use tags for management,
   wait to tag until required to do so by
   law.

Alternative Methods of ID:
1. Tattoos work for ID and can be used to satisfy National Scrapie ID requirements if accompanied by
   registration papers from an USDA approved registry when they leave the home premises. However,
   they are not as easily used for management unless you are handling your goats daily.

2. RFID Implants are growing in popularity. They can be read by an electronic reader and if properly
   applied in the web of the tail they do not move away. There is software now that can be used in
   conjunction with recordkeeping and herd management programs to make it easier for the producer to
   record data while treating or handling goats.