

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

# Sheep and Goat Identification

Last Modified:

The National Scrapie Eradication Program is providing up to 100 plastic flock ID tags free-of-charge to first time participants in the sheep and goat identification program until available funds are expended. Producers will need to purchase the compatible applicator from the tag manufacturer.

We discontinued the availability of no-cost metal tags for producers on August 31, 2019. Dealers and markets may continue to receive metal serial tags at no cost until the available funds are expended. Flock ID tag numbers are the producer's flock ID assigned by APHIS or the State followed by an individual animal number. Metal serial tag numbers have the state postal abbreviation, two letters followed by four numbers. Plastic serial tags have the state postal abbreviation, a letter and a number in either order, followed by four numbers.

APHIS is working with sheep and goat organizations to encourage the use of electronic identification to improve our nation's ability to quickly trace exposed and diseased animals in the event of an outbreak.

[Request Official Sheep and Goat Tags](#)

**To request official sheep and goat tags, a flock or premises ID or both, call 1-866-USDA-Tag (866-873-2824).**

1-866-USDA-TAG has a new telephone tree (implemented in February 2021) that will gather information from the caller to direct them to the correct VS or State office to answer their questions about sheep and goat identification.

When prompted, callers will either key in or say the numbers on their telephone keypad corresponding to the two-letter postal abbreviation of the State or territory where the flock or herd about which they are calling is located. For example, if they are calling about their flock or herd in Texas, they will key in or say “8, 9” to indicate “T, X.” If they are calling about their flock or herd in California, they will key in or say “2, 2” to indicate “C, A.” Once the proper state is identified, the caller will be asked to key in or say “1” to confirm that it is the correct state. If the wrong state was inadvertently identified, the caller can key in or say “2” to return to the main menu to identify the correct state. If more than one state is represented by the number combination (for example, both Utah and Vermont are represented by “8, 8” for “U, T” and “V, T” respectively) then the caller will be asked to select the correct state from the list of options. The caller will then be routed directly to the correct person to help them. If they don’t know the postal abbreviation or have difficulty with the tree, they will be routed to a voicemail box where they can leave a message with their name, phone number, and the State or territory where their sheep or goats are located. These inquiries will be forwarded to the correct State or VS office within 2 business days. *Callers should recognize that using this message feature will add significantly to the time required to obtain an answer to their questions because their message must be manually routed to the correct office.*

Please provide any feedback about the new routing system to [scrapie@usda.gov](mailto:scrapie@usda.gov).

Producers and others who handle sheep or goats in commerce who need additional tags or want a different type or color of tag may purchase official plastic, metal or radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags directly from approved tag manufactures. A flock or Premises ID is required to order tags from these sources. A National Premises ID is also required to purchase official 840 RFID tags or implantable devices.

For those who use the APHIS-provided tags, please note that you will need to purchase a compatible applicator.

- Plastic Shearwell tags require the V6 Sheep SET Tag Applicator. Order the applicator by calling 1-800-778-6014 or by completing this order form:

[Shearwell Data Ltd Sheep Tag Applicator Order Form](#)

- Metal National Band and Tag official identification devices require the 505S applicator. This applicator is available for purchase from the [National Band and Tag Company](#) at (859) 261-2035.

The companies listed below are approved. These ear tags and devices are approved for the official identification of sheep and goats in interstate commerce. There are restrictions on the use of implantable devices, refer to page 55 of the [National Scrapie Eradication Program Standards](#)

**Note:** SFCP tags may only be purchased by owners of flocks participating in the Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program. Regular program tags may be purchased by any producer who has a flock/premises ID.

**Allflex USA, Inc.**

PO Box 612266

2805 East 14th Street

Dallas Ft. Worth Airport, TX 75261-2266

Phone: 833-SCRAPIE (833-727-2743)

Fax: 972-338-3445

Web: [www.allflex.global/na/product/scrapie-tags/](http://www.allflex.global/na/product/scrapie-tags/)

Email: [scrapiefulfillment@allflexusa.com](mailto:scrapiefulfillment@allflexusa.com)

(Plastic eartags in several colors - regular and SFCP)

**Alliance ID, USA**

2199 Manton Drive

Covington, Louisiana 70433

985-898-0811

800-434-2843

Web: [www.microchipidsystems.com](http://www.microchipidsystems.com)

Email: [answers@microchipidsystems.com](mailto:answers@microchipidsystems.com)

Contact: Patrice Karwowski

(RFID 840 microchip transponders in syringes. Universal scanners)

**EZid, LLC**

4412 W 4th Street Road

Greeley, CO 80634

970-351-7701

877-330-3943

Web: [www.EZidAvid.com](http://www.EZidAvid.com)

Email: [Sales@EZidAvid.com](mailto:Sales@EZidAvid.com)

Contact: Elsie McCoy

(RFID - Avid Microchip transponder implants and scanners)

**National Band & Tag Company**

721 York St., P.O. Box 72430

Newport, KY 41072-0430, USA

Phone: 859-261-2035

Fax: 859-261-8247

Email: [tags@nationalband.com](mailto:tags@nationalband.com)

Web: [www.nationalband.com/](http://www.nationalband.com/)

Contacts: Kevin Haas, Sarah Fields

(Metal tags in white, green, orange, mauve and bright metal)

**Premier 1 Supplies LLC**

2031 300th St

Washington, IA 52353

Phone: 800-282-6631

Fax: 800-346-7992

Email: [info@premier1supplies.com](mailto:info@premier1supplies.com)

Web page: [www.premier1supplies.com/c/ear-tags-and-tattoo-supplies/ear-tags-for-usda-scrapie-eradication-program](http://www.premier1supplies.com/c/ear-tags-and-tattoo-supplies/ear-tags-for-usda-scrapie-eradication-program)

Contact: Customer Service

(Plastic eartags in several colors- regular and SFCP)

**Shearwell Data USA**

Phone: 1-800-778-6014

Email: [salesusa@shearwell.com](mailto:salesusa@shearwell.com)

Web: [www.shearwell.com](http://www.shearwell.com)

Contact: Customer service

(RFID and Plastic eartags in several colors - regular and SFCP)

Identification Educational Materials

**Fact Sheet**

- [Animal ID and Recordkeeping for Sheep and Goats](#)

**Example Owner/Hauler Statements**

- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - Afrikaans](#) (144.61 KB)
- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - Arabic](#) (176.56 KB)
- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - English](#) (165.17 KB)
- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - Portuguese](#) (141.01 KB)
- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - Spanish](#) (143.2 KB)
- [Example Owner/Hauler Statement for Sheep and Goats - Turkish](#) (207.62 KB)

## Posters

- [Scrapie Tag Poster - English](#) (9.77 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Afrikaans](#) (16.29 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Arabic](#) (16.4 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Farsi](#) (16.42 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Portuguese](#) (8.02 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Spanish](#) (16.58 MB)
- [Scrapie Tag Poster - Turkish](#) (16.37 MB)

## Identification Decision Trees

- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - English](#) (87.62 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Afrikaans](#) (45.21 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Arabic](#) (109.44 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Farsi](#) (117.78 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Portuguese](#) (73.75 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Spanish](#) (73.17 KB)
- [Sheep and Goat Official Identification Decision Tree - Turkish](#) (68.01 KB)

### Popular Links

- [Import of Live Sheep, Goats and Germplasm](#)
- [National Scrapie Eradication Program](#)
- [Scrapie Disease Information](#)
- [Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program](#)
- [Scrapie Sample Submission](#)
- [Interstate Animal Movement Requirements](#)

### Educational Materials

## Finish the Fight Against Scrapie

- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Arabic](#) (1.23 MB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Chinese](#) (316.94 KB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - English](#) (625.76 KB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Farsi](#) (1.23 MB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Hindi](#) (871.47 KB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Portuguese](#) (685.79 KB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Turkish](#) (614.62 KB)
- [Finish the Fight Against Scrapie - Vietnamese](#) (651.27 KB)

## Other Materials

- [National Scrapie Eradication Program \(NSEP\) and the Importance of Sheep and Goat Traceability](#) (video on APHIS YouTube)
- [Official USDA Sheep and Goat Identification](#) (1.13 MB) - *report on quantity of and number of orders for official identification (ID) distributed to or purchased by sheep and goat stakeholders*
- [National Scrapie Eradication Program Standards](#) (1.46 MB) - *2019 final*
- [Sheep & Goat Official ID Basics Flow Chart](#) (82.85 KB)
- NIAA Goat ID Flyer: ([high resolution for printing](#) (4.5 MB)) ([smaller size file for e-mail](#) (2.77 MB))
- NIAA Sheep ID Flyer: ([high resolution for printing](#) (1.92 MB)) ([smaller size file for e-mail](#) (1.38 MB))
- Key Points for Livestock Market Operators ([PowerPoint](#) (5.09 MB)) ([pdf](#) (132.13 KB))
- NIAA Sheep and Goat ID Requirements ([PowerPoint](#) (18.46 MB)) ([pdf](#) (48.54 MB))
- [Registry Tattoos Approved for Use as Official ID for the Scrapie Program](#)

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