



Sheep & Goats - Official Identification Options

Official Identification (ID)

must be a device or identification mark approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and provide a unique identification number for each animal. Official ID devices must be tamper evident and bear the U.S. shield. **It is unlawful to remove official ID.**

Note: In April 2019, the USDA changed official ID requirements for sheep and goats in interstate movement; please contact the destination state to inquire about entry requirements for official ID.

How do I obtain a National Premises ID Number (NPIN) for 840 Tags?

- Visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/ID_Info.html,
- Call (866) 325-5681, or
- Email PAIS@cdfa.ca.gov.

I. Eartags:

Flock ID Tags



Typically the U.S. Postal Service state abbreviation followed by the flock ID number and unique ID number for the animal. If the tag includes the flock's national premises ID number (NPIN), it will not have the postal abbreviation.

Serial Tags



Typically the U.S. Postal Service state abbreviation followed by a letter/number combination that is six characters in length.

Animal Identification Number (AIN, 840) Tags



Tags begin with the official country code (840 for U.S.), followed by 12 digits. These tags can be Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices or be visual only. AIN tags are issued to producers or USDA accredited veterinarians and can be obtained by calling an authorized tag manufacturer. A National Premises Identification Number (NPIN) is required to purchase '840' tags.

USDA National Scrapie Eradication Program

Veterinary Services Area
Office—California

(916) 854-3950

<http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/>
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/>

Obtaining Official Scrapie Eartags (Flock ID or Serial Tags):

- Call [866-USDA-TAG \(866-873-2824\)](tel:866-873-2824) to obtain a flock ID number.
- If you haven't received free tags from USDA in the past, you can request up to 80 free plastic tags.
 - ◊ Plastic—Allflex Couple 74 Tag (available through September 2020 to producers ordering tags for the first time)
- If you have received tags in the past, need more tags, or need a different type of tag, you can purchase your own official tags from an approved tag manufacturer, once you have a flock ID number.
- There are approved tags available for purchase by producers in different styles, colors, sizes, numbering options, and with flock name imprint.

II. Official Tattoos (Two Types Accepted):

1. **USDA Flock ID + Individual Animal ID:** USDA Flock ID Number tattooed in the right ear or tail web, and a unique Individual Animal ID Number in the left ear or tail web. The tail web is the loose skin near the base of the tail that fans out on each side of the tail bones.
2. **Registration Tattoo:** USDA approved breed registry tattoos include a unique Premises ID Number and Individual Animal ID Number. A registration certificate **must** accompany animals when traveling or sold to count as official ID.



III. Electronic Implant Device (EID):

The EID, or microchip, may be used as official ID in the Scrapie Eradication Program if the animals are registered with a national registry association, and the implants are ISO* compliant and obtained from a USDA-approved manufacturer.

Animals at exhibition, transported, or sold must be accompanied by a microchip reader and the registration certificate.

Animals sold without transfer of registration papers, such as to slaughter or through livestock markets, must be identified with *visible* official ID such as ear tags or tattoos.

In sheep and goats, EID placement is recommended at the top of the ear between the skin and cartilage near where the ear meets the head. The tail fold may also be used.

*ISO: International Organization for Standardization



IV. USDA Back Tags:

USDA Back Tags are a form of temporary ID that may be allowed for sheep and goats moving directly to slaughter. These tags are acquired from local CDFA Animal Health Branch offices.

Sheep & Goat Tag Manufacturers

Allflex USA Inc.	(833) 727-2743	www.ScrapieTags.com
Alliance ID, USA	(800) 834-2843	www.MicrochipIDSystems.com
Ezid Livestock Identification	(877) 330-3943	www.EZidAvid.com
National Band & Tag Company	(859) 261-2035	www.NationalBand.com
Premier 1 Supplies, LLC	(800) 282-6631	www.Premier1Supplies.com
Shearwell Data USA	(320) 760-4696	www.Shearwell.com