

Michigan Sheep and Goat Official ID



Sheep and goats leaving a Michigan premises must have official ID.

In Michigan, all sheep and goats must be identified with official identification (ID) approved by the national scrapie program to move off a premises. There are many forms of ID which qualify as official ID described in this document.

Every Michigan farm with sheep and goats is identified with a scrapie flock ID. A scrapie flock ID is a unique identifier assigned by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), contact the USDA Michigan office at 517-337-4705 to get your scrapie flock ID.

Scrapie ID Tags

Producers can order plastic tags through approved vendors found at <http://bit.ly/USDAscrapietag>. On a limited basis, free tags may still be available through the USDA Michigan office. Interested producers should contact the office at 517-337-4705.



Tags cannot be placed in the tail web of earless goats or sheep. For more information on how to identify these animals, reference the second page.



Tattoos

Scrapie Tattoos

A scrapie tattoo must be legible and include both the scrapie flock ID and an individual management number. Scrapie tattoos can be placed in the ear, tail web, or flank.



Official Registry Tattoos

For goats, legible official registry tattoos when used must be recorded in a goat purebred registry association's book and official documentation must accompany the animals.

RFID Tags

Visual Electronic Tags

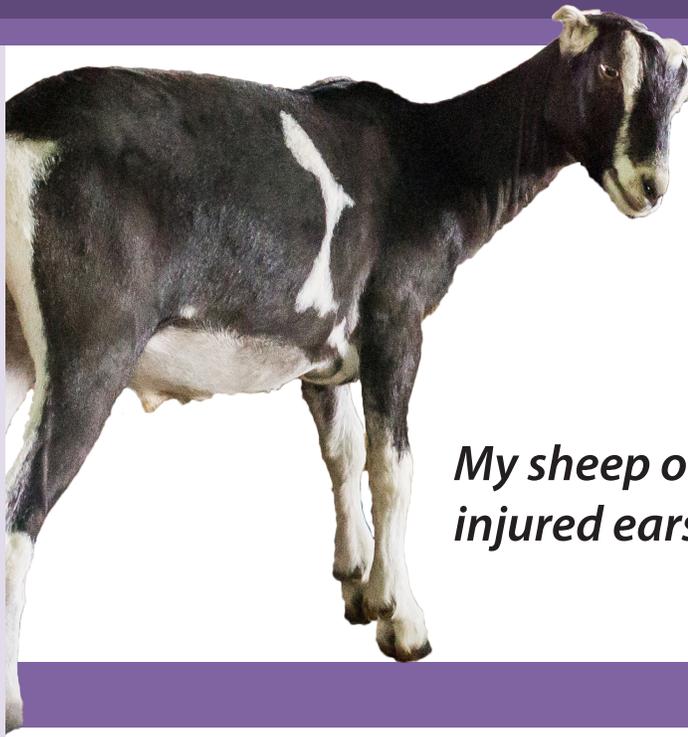
Only specific types of RFID tags are approved for use in sheep and goats. Round RFID tags approved for sheep and goats are lighter and smaller than similar tags designed for other species. **Using RFID tags approved for other species is not considered official ID for sheep and goats.**



When ordering RFID tags, you may also need your national premises number. If interested in ordering RFID tags, contact the USDA Michigan office at 517-337-4705.

Microchips

There are many requirements to use a microchip as the sole official ID. For more details contact the USDA Michigan office.



My sheep or goat is earless or has injured ears, how do I tag them?

Earless Sheep and Goats

The USDA does not support earless goats and sheep to be tagged using the tail web. In place of tail web tagging, exhibitors can either use a tattoo, collar, or neck chain.

The following are some guidelines for the use of collars and neck chains:

- Collars and neck chains cannot be placed in a way that allows them to be removed over the head. The tag must be placed so the only way it could be removed would be by cutting the collar/neck chain completely off or cutting the eartag.
- Just like an ear tag, a tag placed on a collar or neck chain must not be removed.
- For younger goats, the collar must have room for growth. This can be done by placing the tag at the end of the collar after the D ring. The D ring must be small enough that the tag cannot be pulled through (see picture right).

Collar and neck chain tagging is only allowed in sheep or goats who are earless or have ears too injured to tag.

