



# Colorado Department of Agriculture Fact Sheet

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## Scrapie Surveillance: Tagging Sheep and Goats

In an effort to eradicate scrapie in the United States, USDA requires sheep and goats to have flock identification ear tags that list their flock of origin. Enforcement of these rules are now in effect as the tags are readily available to producers.

Animals required to have flock ID tags:



### Sheep

- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals 18 mo. or older moving to slaughter.
- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition.
- All breeding sheep regardless of age



### Goats

- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals moving to slaughter.
- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition and do not have a registration tattoo with registration or the tattoo is illegible.
- Due to scrapie found in goats in Colorado, all commercial goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older not in slaughter channels.

\*\*Registered meat and dairy goats may use tattoos that are legible with Breed Registration Numbers until they are sent to slaughter when a flock ID tag will be required.

Cull breeding sheep and goats destined for slaughter will be tested for scrapie. During the scrapie surveillance program, the ID tags will be collected to accompany the test sample and used to trace an animal that tests positive for scrapie back to its infected flock. Flocks/herds will be counseled individually to help owners work through scrapie toward eradication. All exposed goats are at risk. All exposed genetically susceptible sheep are at risk.

### **Keeping Records**

Records on purchases must be maintained for five years for disease investigation purposes. When selling sheep and goats at the livestock market, owners should have flock ID numbers recorded on the market check-in document.

### **Buyers**

Sheep and goat buyers should maintain records on the number of animals acquired; the date of acquisition; the name, address and phone number of the person from whom they were purchased; and their flock of origin ID numbers. Livestock barns tagging sheep and goats with their flock ID tags are required to comply.

### **Sellers**

Individuals who sell or dispose of sheep and goats should maintain records of the number of animals sold and disposed; the date of sale; the name, address and phone number of the buyer or person who acquired the animals; and the flocks of origin ID numbers and their individual numbers.

To obtain tags, owners must contact the APHIS Area Veterinary Services at (303) 231-5385 for a flock identification number. APHIS will also assist owners in ordering the tags, which are provided at no cost. Sale barns will also be assigned a flock ID number and will be supplied with white or blue metal tags to identify sheep.

### **Contacts:**

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(303) 231-5385