GOAT Identification: Visual and Electronic

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Disclaimer

The following slides are accurate for most States and most situations. However, some States have:

- Exempted some animals when moved within the State; or
- Set higher standards than USDA.
- For ease of understanding, the exemptions provided by USDA to address certain specific situations are summarized on Slides 7, 8, 12, 13, & 14.
Definition of Low-Risk Commercial Goat

- Are raised for fiber and/or meat;
- Are not registered or exhibited;
- Have not been exposed to sheep;
- Are not scrapie-positive, scrapie-high-risk, or scrapie-exposed; and
- Are not from scrapie-infected or source herd.
The following goats are required to be identified by Federal and/or State regulation as part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP):

- All goats on change of ownership 
  
  **except:**
  
  - Low-risk commercial goats exempted by the State and
  - Goats in slaughter channels.

(Cont’d)
Required to be Identified

See notes section for more detail

(Cont’d)

• All sexually intact goats for exhibition.
• All scrapie-exposed and suspect goats;
• States may have more stringent ID regulations.
Federal-Interstate ID Requirements for Meat and Fiber Goats

- All does and bucks regardless of age must be identified, except low-risk commercial goats and goats in slaughter channels.
- All show/exhibition goats must be identified, except for wethers.
Federal-Interstate ID Exemptions for Meat & Fiber Goats

- Wethers;
- Slaughter goats (goats in slaughter channels); and
- Low-risk commercial goats.

*NOTE: Removal of existing official ID is not permitted.*
No Federal Requirement to be Identified

- The federal program does not require kids* in slaughter channels to be identified, but some states do.

*Kids are defined as less than 18-months-old.
Record Keeping

- Records are an important tool in eradicating scrapie.
- They are required to be kept for 5 years.
- It is recommended that they can be easily retrieved.
Federal-Interstate ID Requirements for Dairy Goats

- All does and bucks regardless of age not in slaughter channels.
- All show/exhibition goats.
Does and bucks not in slaughter channels are required to be identified prior to leaving the farm/ranch or upon change of ownership.
Federal-Interstate ID Exemptions for Goats Not in Slaughter Channels

- Animals moved for management purposes without change of ownership and without commingling with animals from other herds/flocks (such as grazing).

(Cont’d)
Federal-Interstate ID Exemptions for Goats Not in Slaughter Channels

(Cont’d)

- Animals moved as part of a same source lot to an approved market where they will be identified prior to commingling or sale.

- Animals that are exempted from identification in intrastate commerce that are low-risk commercial goats or wethers.
Federal ID Exemptions for Dairy Goats

- Same as other goats except they do not qualify for the low-risk commercial goat exemption.
Not Federally Required to be Identified

- The federal program does not require kids in slaughter channels to be identified, but some states do.
Goat ID Tip

Registered animals may be identified with a registration tattoo in lieu of an official ear tag, as long as the tattoo is either the same as the herd ID assigned by USDA or the animal is accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate listing the current owner.
Tattoo and Registration Certificate

ISSUED: August 26, 2003

OWNER: 11174
University of California
Dept. of Animal Science
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616

PERCENT BOER: 90%

BREEDER: 11174
University of California
Dept. of Animal Science
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616

TATTOO: LEFT EAR: 1179
RIGHT EAR: UCD

COLOR: CORRECT

DESC: 10020970 BOOR
EGGFILE = "KNOBBLED" 3/00

11222 I-99-260-052
1788854 DDN
3288144 DDN WOBLES 75144

BURE: 10195958 DDN
38217 DDN 0007

18114046

28156028 DDN
98229 I-93-168-008BA

28156043 RAM H
RAM H TAEILA

DAM: *MUB 0185

FACILITY CODE:
BP = SPANISH  NU = NUBIAN
LA = LeMane  DD = DAIMEN
AL = ALPINE  O = OTHER

The * before the Registration number indicates a foreign registration number.
Example of Registry Information
National Scrapie Eradication Program

How to Tattoo a LaMancha in its Tail Web

- Wait until kids are over 3 months old;
- Test tattoo on paper first to ensure legibility;
- Clean area where tattoo will be applied;
- Apply green* paste ink with toothbrush;
- Hold kid firmly;
- Press tattoo pliers firmly;
- Brush ink/use toothbrush to apply ink.

*Note: Green ink should be used for LaMancha tattoos, as it is less likely to be mistaken for other colors.
National Scrapie Eradication Program

LaMancha Tail Web Tattoo

Site where tattoo should be applied.

Applying the tattoo.
National Scrapie Eradication Program

Ear Tattooing in Goat Kids
National Scrapie Eradication Program

Ear Tattoos for Goats

Reading a tattoo with a flashlight providing backlight illumination
Goat Identification Issues

- Use of registration tattoos is a privilege.
- Owners must assure **legibility** of tattoos.
- Owners must assist with tattoo reading process.
  - Provide light to assist with reading.
- Owners must keep accurate inventory records.
- Culled breeding animals must be traceable to herd of origin.
Goat ID Tips/Advice*

- Do not buy animals of any age that may be used for breeding or goats over 18 months of age for any purpose unless they have official ID applied.

- If you are selling or buying breeding goats, they need to be officially identified prior to the time of sale.

*This is advice to ensure that you are always in compliance with the rules and that goats that have scrapie or have been exposed to scrapie can be traced. Exceptions as previously described may apply to some situations.
Scrapie Flock ID Number

- Scrapie Flock ID number is assigned to a herd/flock by the State Veterinarian’s office or APHIS office.

- Scrapie Flock identification without individual animal ID number is confined to limited uses such as grazing and low-risk herds/flocks.
Individual Identification

- Owner-purchased tags produced by approved tag companies.

- Example: IA2373 5010

Scrapie Flock ID No.  Individual Animal No.
How Do I Know If a Tag is An Official Tag?

The **US Shield** is on all official tags.
Where Do I Get My NSEP Tags?

- Call **1-866-USDA-TAG**.
  - The above number will direct the caller to the office in their state which places tag orders.
  - This office can place a tag order for Flock/Herd ID tags or, in some cases, directly send serial tags at **no cost** to you.
  - Provide your herd’s registration prefix and ask that it be used as your Scrapie Flock/Herd ID number in conjunction with your state postal abbreviation.
Approved Ear Tag Manufacturers and Approved Ear Tags

Tags are provided at **no charge** to producers by USDA* (regular white or blue slaughter-only tags):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Types</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available tags</td>
<td>Allflex Couple 74</td>
<td>Hasco Tag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Call 1-866-USDA-TAG to request tags.
# Tags for Purchase* in Various Colors and Styles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag Type</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>RFID**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allflex- SFCP only</td>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>RFID**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier</td>
<td>Hasco</td>
<td>Allflex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Premier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Global Animal Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Band &amp; Tag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AVID – implants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contact the manufacturer to purchase.

**Standardized PIN required to purchase RFID tags.
Standardized PIN vs. NSEP Flock ID

**Standardized National Premises Identification Number (PIN)**
- 7 digit alphanumeric, example: 01AB2CD
- Allocated through interface with premises allocator and a State’s premises registration system
- Held in state databases and may at the discretion of the state be held in federal databases
- PINs are location identifiers for operations
- Required to order “840” devices (RFID and visual only)

**NSEP Flock ID number**
- Varies in number of digits, starts with the state postal abbreviation (IA=Iowa)
- Assigned by the State or the APHIS/VS office in your State
- Held in State and Scrapie Program databases
- Flock ID represents a group of animals associated with a location; multiple flock ID numbers may be assigned to the same location.
- Required to order any scrapie program tag
Purchase an Approved Ear Tag That Complements Your Management

- The program has evolved to address producers’ needs and management styles.
- There are approved tags available for purchase by producers in different styles, colors, sizes, numbering options and with flock name imprint.
- Call **1-866-USDA-TAG** to have your herd information entered into the ordering system, then contact the tag manufacturer to purchase your choice of official tags.
Updated list of Approved Tag Manufactures and Contact Information Available at:

Two-Piece Swivel Tag Distribution has been **Discontinued** due to Poor Retention.

Producers may still use their current supply as official ID. However, replacement with newer tag style is recommended.
Factors that Contribute to Optimal Eartag Retention and Minimal Infection/Tissue Reaction

- Ideal placement location.
- Tag kids under 6 months old.
- Tag clean, dry ears.
- Place female portion of tag on inside of ear.
- When possible avoid tagging in the humid summer months or in wet conditions.
Tag Placement

- Official Scrapie tag (plastic two-piece tag).
- Photos of good tag placement.
Record Keeping

- Records are an important tool in eradicating scrapie.
- Required to be kept for 5 years.
- Recommend that they can be easily retrieved.
Scrapie Eradication

- Scrapie eradication will be facilitated through enhanced record keeping.
- An example of required records is shown.
FORM FOR RECORDING
NATIONAL SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM OFFICIAL TAG OR TATTOO

*Column headings in italics denote optional field for official record.*

**NOTE:** Records must be kept for **5 years** after animal is sold or otherwise disposed. Animals that remain on your premises throughout their lifetime are not required to be officially identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Scrapie ID Number/ Tattoo</th>
<th>Management ID Tag/ Tattoo</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Date Official ID applied</th>
<th>Born on Farm (Y or N)?</th>
<th>Name/address of previous owner's (if applicable)</th>
<th>Date Acquired/ Date Sold</th>
<th>Name and address of buyer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Record Keeping Quick Tip

If an official tag is lost, replace it ASAP with another official tag and record that number and if known:

- The previous tag number, or
- The tag(s) numbers that it could have been, or
- The name and address of the herd/flock of origin.
**Replacement Scrapie Tag Record**

Tag is lost and previous scrapie tag ID is known.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Official Scrapie ID</th>
<th>Previous/Lost Scrapie ID</th>
<th>Management ID</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN11122 7100</td>
<td>MN11122 6052</td>
<td>6052</td>
<td>3/17/07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Required Record Keeping

- A record must be made when official ID is applied to the animal.
- The record must be kept for 5 years after the animal dies or is no longer owned by you.
Another Goat ID Tip

If selling groups of animals that are tagged at the time of sale, it is acceptable to list the first and last number in the sequential series of the tags applied, as long as a sequential series is used and noted.
State Scrapie Regulations

Please check the State’s Veterinarian’s or Animal Health Official’s website regarding each State’s regulations relative to the NSEP. Quick links to each state can be found at NIAA website:

http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie/Scrapie.htm

Please contact your State for the most current information.
The following slides clarify how the National Scrapie Program and the Traceability Program will work together.
Confused Regarding How Scrapie Program ID and the Traceability Proposed Rule Relate?
Scrapie Program ID and the Traceability Proposed Rule

- Complying with the identification requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program is required by federal regulation that has been in effect since September 2001.
- The traceability proposed rule incorporates the scrapie program ID regulations by reference, it would not establish new requirements for sheep or goats.
Questions?
If you have additional questions, please call your local VS Area Office, their phone numbers can be found on the following website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm

or

email the

National Scrapie Eradication Program

scrapie_program@aphis.usda.gov
Information Current as of 9/2011

This presentation was created for the U.S. Goat Industries by staff at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine; University of California; and NIAA Staff with support from the USDA NSEP.

Copies of this presentation are available from NIAA: www.animalagriculture.org