Sheep Identification Requirements

**Step 1**
Determine which of your sheep need official ear tags or other official ID to move interstate or intrastate.

**Step 2**
Request a flock ID number from your local APHIS Veterinary Services office or your State Veterinarian’s office.

**Step 3**
Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems will work best for you (see “What You as a Producer Need to Know” on the Scrapie website.)

**Step 4**
Set up a method to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.

**Step 5**
Officially identify the animals before they leave your premises.

**Step 6**
Get a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian prior to interstate shipment or sale into interstate commerce of animals for breeding or exhibition.

**Step 7**
Retain records for at least 5 years from the time the animals are transported or sold.

**Step 8**
For more information on tags for any state call toll-free 1-866-USDA-TAG. (873-2824)

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**Baah, where do I fit in?**

**Culled Sheep**
Culled ewes or rams must be officially identified/ear tagged. Cull sheep is defined as greater than 18 months of age.

**Fat Lambs**
Lambs under 18 months of age going to slaughter do not need official identification.

Ewe lambs under 18 months of age leaving slaughter channels need to be officially identified/ear tagged with records to the flock of birth that are kept for 5 years.

**Breeding Ewe or Ram**
If going to show: Official I.D. required.
If going to sale: Official I.D. required.
If staying at home: No official I.D. required.

Any show/exhibition is considered interstate movement if out of state animals attend.