



## What's the News about Goat ID? New Identification Rules (requirements) for Goats

**NIAA News Release, March 26, 2019, Colorado Springs, CO**---According to the National Scrapie Eradication Program and National Institute for Animal Agriculture, it comes down to one thing: ID it!

The 2019 Federal Scrapie Regulation Revision means goats including slaughter goats and commercial goats that were previously exempted will need to be individually officially identified or group identified with a group lot ID with some exceptions.

### **Federal requirements:**

- **Sexually intact goats of any age and wethers 18 months of age or older, that are not in slaughter channels** must be officially individually identified before moving off the premises where they reside or move as a single flock-of-origin group with group/lot ID and an owner/hauler statement to:
  - another premise belonging to the same flock/herd,
  - to an in-state site to be officially identified, or
  - to a federally approved livestock market (in-state or out-of-state) to be officially identified

**Note:** If moving across a state line other than to a federally approved livestock market or to another premise belonging to the same flock/herd, an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)--also known as a health certificates—is required rather than an owner/hauler statement.

- **Wethers under 18 months** of age may move without official ID or an owner hauler statement.
- **Slaughter goats**
  - **older than 18 months** (sexually intact and wethers) must be officially individually identified before moving off the premises where they reside or move with flock-of-origin group/lot ID and whether individually or group identified be

accompanied by an owner/hauler statement to a slaughter establishment, a terminal feedlot, a slaughter-only sale, or to an individual for slaughter for personal use.

- **less than 18 months of age** (sexually intact, not wethers) must be individually identified or moved as a mixed or same flock-of-origin group lot with group/lot ID and whether individually or group identified, be accompanied by an owner/hauler statement to a slaughter establishment, a terminal feedlot, a slaughter-only sale, or to an individual for slaughter for personal use.

Goats that are not and have not been in interstate commerce, are not owned by people who engage in the interstate commerce<sup>1</sup> of sheep or goats and that have not resided on premises from which or to which sheep or goats are moved interstate, are exempted from the federal ID requirements but must comply with state requirements. States require the official identification of all or some classes of goats on change of ownership and some States require official ID to exhibit goats. For State-specific information, contact your State Veterinarian's office.

**Types of official ID:** Official ear tags (including those with RFID), are the easiest form of individual official ID to use. Ear tags are preferred since they make it is easier for markets and buyers to determine which goats have the required official ID. Other forms of official ID may be used for certain classes of goats with specific requirements for and limitations on their use. These including flock ID<sup>2</sup> or registry tattoos, electronic implantable devices (EIDs), registered brands and ear notches, back tags and official ear tags on neck straps. Information on when and how these alternate forms of official ID may be used and a current list of approved tag and EID manufacturers is available at the USDA APHIS Sheep and Goat Health page listed below.

**A limited number of official ear tags are available from the National Scrapie Eradication Program at 866-USDA-TAG at no cost to producers who have not gotten the free tags before. Official tags may also be purchased directly from approved tag manufactures (go to the USDA web page listed below for a list of approved tag manufactures).**

**Federal record keeping requirements:** If an owner/hauler statement or an ICVI is used to move animals, the ICVI or the owner/hauler statement or the information contained in the statement

---

<sup>1</sup> Engaging in interstate commerce of sheep or goats includes offering to sell or dispose of or selling or disposing of sheep or goats out-of-state, buying or acquiring sheep or goats that have been out-of-state, moving sheep or goats across a state line, or selling sheep or goats through a livestock market where out-of-state buyers may bid.

<sup>2</sup> flock ID tattoos are a combination of the flock ID assigned to the flock in the National Scrapie Database and an individual animal number unique with in the flock

must be maintained for 5 years after the movement by the owner at the time of the movement and the recipient of the animals, if different. A record must also be made when an animal is acquired or disposed of, or when the official ID is applied. This record must be kept for five years after the animal dies or is no longer owned by you and needs to be easily accessible.

**Remember when in doubt ID It!**

For more information, go to <http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/> or to the USDA's Sheep and Goat Identification page at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct to order ear tags](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct%20to%20order%20ear%20tags)

###