



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Protect. Promote. Prosper.

Animal Health Program
635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
503.986.4680 | Oregon.gov/ODA

APPROVED OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION FOR SHEEP AND GOATS IN OREGON



THE IMPORTANCE OF OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Official identification of sheep and goats is very important. It is permanent identification that follows the animals for its whole life. It allows state and federal animal health officials to track where that animal has been throughout its life, which is important for controlling animal disease.

All sexually intact sheep and goats of any age which are not confined in slaughter channels, all sheep and goats over 18 months of age in slaughter channels, and all sheep and goats, regardless of age or sexual status must have official identification in place before leaving the farm of birth. Official identification must be in accordance with 9 CFR Part 79.

TYPES OF OFFICIAL ID

- Scrapie/Flock ID tags
- Registration Tattoos
- 840 Microchips
- RFID 840 Tags
- Serial Tags
- Official Flock Identification Tattoos



All official ID tags have the US shield on them, indicating that they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**IT IS A FEDERAL CRIME TO REMOVE OFFICIAL
IDENTIFICATION**



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SCRAPIE TAGS

Scrapie tags, also called flock ID tags are made up of two parts: your Scrapie Flock ID number and an individual animal ID number. Together, they make a unique Scrapie ID number.

A Scrapie Flock ID number is obtained when a producer registers their flock with the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program. A Scrapie Flock ID often starts with the postal code of the issuing state, for Oregon that is OR. It is then followed by typically 5 letters and/or numbers.



Scrapie tags can be placed in either ear and come in a variety of shapes, colors and materials.

All official Scrapie tags will contain the US shield, indicating they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture.

It is unlawful to removal any official tags.



REGISTRATION TATTOOS

Breed registration tattoos may be used as official identification in sheep and goats if the requirements for their use are met.

Registration tattoos are made up of two parts; a registry prefix and a unique animal ID number. The prefix is assigned by the breed registry and is the same for all animals born in a flock.



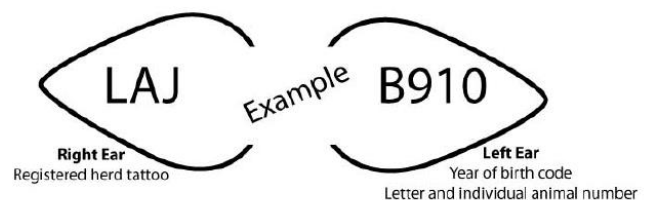
REQUIREMENTS:

- Animals must be registered with an approved breed registry
- The tattoo prefix must be linked to the flock of birth's Scrapie Flock ID by state or USDA staff
- Registration papers listing the registry and the registered tattoo numbers must accompany the animal when they travel
- If the animal is moving across state lines, they must also travel with a CVI listing the tattoo and breed registry number
- The tattoo prefix and the unique animal ID number should be in separate ears
- Animals without ears should have tattoos applied to the tail fold, or the flank if the tail fold is too small

Registration tattoos **CANNOT** be used for unregistered animals. The tattoo is not complete unless it is legible in each ear.

APPROVED REGISTRIES

To view a list of approved registries, visit the approved registry list on USDA's website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie/registry>





MICROCHIPS

Microchips, called electronic implantable identification (or EID) can be used as official identification in sheep and goats and are an options for animals without ears. However, the microchip must start with 840 and be 15 digits long to be accepted as official identification.

Microchips must be implanted at the base of the ear or at the base of the tail. Animals with microchips need a tattoo that is at least 1/3 of an inch tall indicating where the microchip is located.

E – Base of the ear

ET – Base of the tail

For registered animals, the microchip number must be recorded with the breed registry, and a copy of the registration certificate accompanies the animal. If the animal is unregistered, they will need the Scrapie Flock ID number tattooed in their ear, the base of their tail fold if they do not have ears, or their flank if the tail fold is too small, in addition to the E or ET tattoo.



A microchip reader must accompany the animal as it travels. If the animal is moving across state lines, they must also travel with a CVI listing the microchip number.

Microchips cannot be used for slaughter animals or animals going to auction yards. You will need to identify these animals with official tags and record the microchip number in your tagging records and notify the buyer that they have a microchip. If you are planning to sell a microchipped animal, contact ODA.



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RFID 840 TAGS

RFID 840 tags (also called AIN tags) are radiofrequency tags that are becoming more popular with sheep and goat producers. The producer needs to have a premises ID number (PIN) for their farm to order RFID tags for their sheep and goats. PINs are not the same of a Scrapie Flock ID number.

To be considered official ID, the RFID tag number must start with 840 and have 15 digits. These tags can be read visually or with an RFID reading device. Only RFID tags approved for use in sheep and goats can be used as official ID in sheep and goats.

They can be placed in either ear and come in a variety of shapes and colors.

All official RFID tags will contain the US shield, indicating they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture.

It is unlawful to removal any official RFID tags.





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SERIAL TAGS

Serial tags begin with the origin state code followed by 2 letters, a letter and a number or 2 numbers, then 4 numbers to make 8 characters total. Some states might have their serial tags start with 2 numbers instead of their state code.



They can only be obtained and distributed by individuals approved by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Serial tags are used by veterinarians and other approved individuals to identify sheep and goats that were not born on that person's property, such as sheep and goats that lost their tags and need official identification to travel. The application of serial tags has to be recorded on special reporting forms by the veterinarian applying them.



They can be placed in either ear and are usually orange or white. They can be metal or plastic.

All official serial tags will contain the US shield, indicating they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture.

It is unlawful to removal any official serial tags.



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OFFICIAL FLOCK IDENTIFICATION TATTOOS

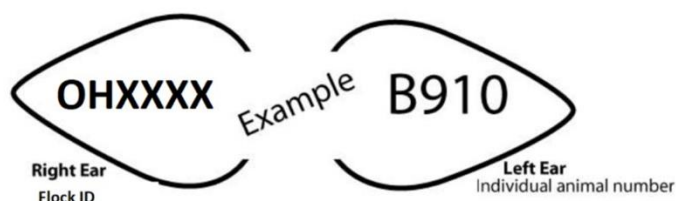
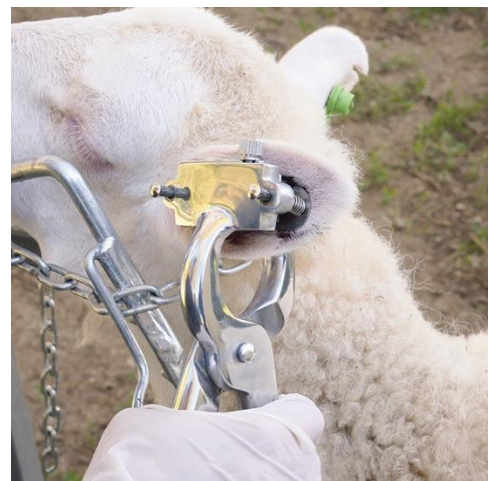
Official Flock Identification tattoos, also call Scrapie Flock tattoos or Scrapie Flock ID tattoos, can be used as official tattoos in sheep and goats, including crossbred animals.

The tattoo must include a USDA assigned Scrapie flock ID number in the animal's right ear and an individual animal number in the left ear. If only one ear can be tattooed, or the animal has to be tattooed in the tail fold or flank, then the Scrapie Flock ID number must be placed above the individual animal ID number.

Scrapie Flock IDs begin with the postal code for the issuing state, followed by a series of numbers and/or letters.

Tattoos are not complete unless it is legible in both ears. Animals must be accompanied by an owner/hauler statement or a CVI listing their tattoo.

Tattoos may NOT be used as the sole form of official identification for animals moving to slaughter or through a livestock market.



Take care not to duplicate individual animal numbers that have already been tattooed in other animals, or place Scrapie tags containing already used individual animal numbers. A different series of numbers can be used for tags than used for tattoos.