

Sheep and Goat Official Identification

Official Identification (ID) are devices or identification marks approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Official ID devices must provide a unique identification number, must be tamper evident, and bear the U.S. shield. **It is unlawful to remove official ID from an animal once applied.**



How do I obtain an NPIN?

- Visit [www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal Health/ID Info.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/AnimalHealth/IDInfo.html)
- Call (866) 325-5681
- Email PAIS@cdfa.ca.gov

Scrapie Tags

Flock ID Tags

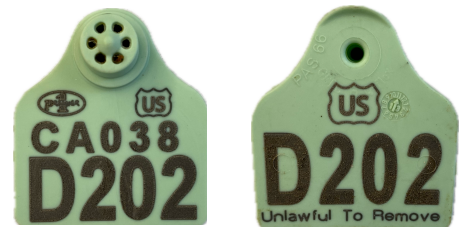
Issued to flock owners. Tags begin with owner's flock ID number assigned by the USDA or state (consisting of the state postal abbreviation and up to seven characters) followed by a unique animal ID number (up to six characters). If the tag includes the flock's national premises ID number (NPIN), it will not have the state postal abbreviation.

Serial ID Tags

Issued to accredited veterinarians. Tags begin with the state postal abbreviation followed by a letter/number combination that is six characters in length.

Animal Identification Number (AIN) "840" Tags

Issued to flock owners and accredited veterinarians. AIN tags begin with the official country code ("840" for the U.S.) followed by 12 digits. AIN tags are available with radio frequency identification technology that allows them to be readable visually and electronically.



How to Order Official ID Tags

- To order official ear tags for sheep and goats, either a flock ID or premises ID is required.
- To obtain Scrapie tags (Flock ID, Serial ID, or AIN tags), call (866) 873-2824 or email scrapie@usda.gov.
- Tags may also be ordered directly from [approved tag manufacturers](#).
- For further information regarding Scrapie tags and the USDA National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP), please see the following:
 - Veterinary Services Area Office-California: (916) 854-3950
 - [USDA NVAP Reference Guide-Scrapie \(Control and Eradication\)](#)
 - [USDA APHIS | Sheep and Goat Identification](#)

Animal Health and Food Safety Services

Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-5932

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Tattoos

Regardless of type, all tattoos must be legible.

Breed Registry Tattoos: Breed registry tattoos include a unique premises or flock ID number assigned by the registry and a unique individual animal ID number. A registration certificate **MUST** accompany tattooed animals when traveling or changing ownership. Registries must be USDA approved ([Registry Tattoos Approved for Use as Official ID for the Scrapie Program](#)).



Flock Identification Tattoos: Flock ID tattoos consist of a flock ID number assigned by the USDA tattooed in the right ear and an individual animal number unique within the flock tattooed in the left ear. The tail fold can be utilized in animals with absent or injured ears.



Electronic Implantable Devices (EIDs)/Microchip

Implants must be compliant with ISO 11784/11785 and must be an AIN ("840") issued to the flock of origin if applied on or after March 2015. The animals must either be registered with a USDA approved registry or the flock or premises is registered with the USDA NSEP.



Implant placement is between the skin and cartilage of the backside of the ear near where the ear joins the head or between the skin and bones of the tail near the tail base. Animals must be tattooed with a legible "E" if the implant is at the base of the ear or "ET" if the implant is in the tail fold.



Animals **MUST** be accompanied by a microchip reader and registration certificate with the EID number listed (if registered).

Back Tags

USDA back tags are a form of temporary identification that can be used in lieu of official ID when sheep and goats are moving directly to a recognized slaughter facility. These tags are available from your local CDFA Animal Health Branch district office.



Official ID Manufacturers

Allflex USA Inc.

(800) 989-8247

www.AllflexUSA.com

(Plastic tags)

Datamars

(254) 598-3440

www.Datamars.com

(RFID/Implants)

Premier 1 Supplies

(800) 282-6631

www.Premier1Supplies.com

(Plastic Tags)

National Band and Tag Company

(859) 261-2035

www.nationalband.com

(Metal Tags)

Alliance ID, USA

(985) 898-0811

www.MicrochipIDSYStems.com

(RFID/Implants)

EZid Livestock

(877) 330-3943

www.EZidAvid.com

(RFID/Implants)

Shearwell Data Limited

(800) 778-6014

www.shearwell.com

(Plastic tags & RFID/Implants)