



ID Requirements and Restrictions Associated With Blue Tagged Sheep and Goats

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

OH/WV

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The scrapie eradication program depends on the identification of sheep and/or goats, and records to trace animals back to the flocks of origin (i.e., the last place they lambled or kidded), and if possible to their farms of birth. Livestock market regulations require the separation of animals able to move freely, and therefore classified as “breeder-eligible” sheep and goats; from those that are restricted to move for slaughter purposes only.

For sheep or goats to move freely through a livestock market, producers should bring their animals with scrapie tags already in place, along with an owner’s statement declaring their farm as the flock of origin (location of last lambing/kidding) or the flock of birth. Most Ohio livestock markets are willing to apply white scrapie tags to animals that arrive with an owner’s statement as described above.

Sheep and/or goats that are required to have scrapie tags that arrive at an approved livestock market without an owner statement, will be restricted to movement in normal slaughter channels only and will have a blue “slaughter-only”/“meat” scrapie tag applied. Sheep and goats of any age, moving as “feeder” animals are restricted to normal slaughter channels and may have blue “slaughter-only”/“meat” scrapie tags applied. Lambs or kids purchased for exhibition, including market animal projects, are not considered “feeder” animals.

Our main message is that sheep and goats with the blue slaughter- only/meat tags cannot be used for exhibition, companion/“lawnmower” or breeding purposes.

We are asking that you please make contact with your local 4-H advisors, clubs, and exhibitors and advise them not to purchase sheep and goats with the blue slaughter-only/meat tags as potential 4-H projects.

They also need to be aware that, in order to exhibit ewes or rams (lambs and adults) purchased at a livestock market, the animals must have arrived with an owner statement and official ID other than a blue “slaughter-only”/“meat” scrapie tag.

Again, Blue Tagged Animals CANNOT Be Used As Fair Projects or Exhibited At the Fair!

It is unlawful to remove or tamper with official identification.

Anyone having questions, or needing official identification for their sheep or goats, may contact the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services office. Toll free at 866-873- 2824 (866 USDA TAG) or direct at 614-856-4745 or email request and contact information to VSOH@aphis.usda.gov.

Tags and applicators are currently shipped at no charge.



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