



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
Bret D. Marsh, DVM, State Veterinarian

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Office of the State Veterinarian  
4154 N Keystone Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
Phone: 317-544-2400  
Fax: 317-542-1415

### ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY

INDIANAPOLIS (12 JAN. 2007)—Many Hoosier sheep and goat producers are already familiar with the federal requirements for identifying sheep and goats. On February 5, 2006 Indiana passed their own rule to coincide with the federal requirements. Please refer to the following points and the attached chart as a guide.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The identification program is **not** the same as the voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP). Official identification program is required of all sheep and goat owners; SFCP is not. Because SFCP participants must meet requirements beyond identification, that official tagging system meets all requirements for the new identification initiative.

#### Key aspects of the new Indiana rule:

- Most sheep and goats being moved for sale, slaughter or exhibition must be permanently identified with a unique flock/herd identification number, assigned by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH), and an individual animal ID number on an official tag. **NOTE:** Refer to attached chart for general tagging guidelines.
- Sheep and goat owners, as well as accredited veterinarians and market operators, can receive official identification tags *at no charge* from an approved supplier. Flock/herd ID must be assigned by a BOAH Ruminant Division staff member before tag orders can be processed. Indiana's official ID is a white plastic tag.
- Sheep and goat owners (including markets, practitioners and others who tag animals) must retain written records of all sales, purchases and movements for a minimum of five years.
- The flock of birth and/or origin must be listed on all certificates of veterinary inspection (health certificates) issued on sheep and goats.
- To be valid, all certificates of veterinary inspection must include a specific destination for the animal (e.g., "North American Livestock Show; Louisville, KY" is acceptable; "open show" is not). All required statements must be complete, along with a notation of each animal's individual ID and flock/herd ID numbers (from ear tag).
- To maintain open borders for interstate trade, all Hoosier sheep and goat owners must comply with the federal rule to achieve a "consistent" state status for Indiana. This program applies uniformly to all states. Ultimately, the intent of this industry-driven program is to eradicate scrapie from the United States by 2017—a goal to improve the worldwide market for American lamb and breeding animals.

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# Federal Sheep and Goat Identification Guidelines

## GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. "Tag" refers to officially recognized ear tags and/or recognized registration tattoo as part of the federal ID program or an official tag used within a Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Poll/back tags can be used only as noted below by \*.
2. Tags must be ordered through the Indiana State Board of Animal Health after a flock herd identification has been assigned.
3. Animals officially identified by a registration tattoo must be accompanied by the original registration paper and/or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection at all movements, or the animal's tattoo must be preceded by the state postal code (e.g., IN) to be considered official. A flock/herd ID, assigned by BOAH, is still required on all flocks/herds in which tattoos are used.
4. Tags should be applied to all animals entering/leaving a flock (unless animal already bears an official tag).
5. Records of all purchases, sales and movements must be kept for at least five years.
6. The flock of birth (if unknown, flock of origin) must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) for all sheep and goats. (Flock of origin is the site where the animal was last bred and/or lambed/kidded.)
7. Animals designated scrapie positive, -suspect, or high-risk are subject to different requirements. Contact BOAH for more information.

## OFFICIAL ID MUST BE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- USDA approved eartag (ordered through BOAH).
- Registration tattoo when animal is moved with registration papers showing tattoo and the tattoo has been registered with BOAH.
- Registration microchip when animal is moved with registration papers showing microchip number and owner must provide microchip reader. Flock/herd must be registered with BOAH.

DESTINATION	To Exhibition	Market To Farm	Farm To Farm	Farm To Market	Direct To Slaughter
Producer Documentation Required:	Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Footnote 1)		Maintain Records	Owner Statement	Maintain Records
<b>Females: Ewes, Nannies/Does</b>					
Under 18 months of age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	—
More than 18 months of age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag*
Dairy/Milking purpose, any age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag*
<b>Males: Rams, Billies/Bucks</b>					
Under 18 months of age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	—
More than 18 months of age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag*
<b>Wethers: Neutered</b>					
Under 18 months of age (footnote 2)	—	—	—	—	—
More than 18 months of age	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag	Tag*

Footnote 1: Certification of Veterinary Inspection must specify an animal's flock of birth and origin if different.

Footnote 2: All exhibition wethers must be individually identified under current Indiana law.



For more information, Contact  
**Indiana State Board of Animal Health**  
 Ruminant Division

4154 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46205-2843  
 317/544-2400 (toll-free) 877/747-3038  
 Email: [animalhealth@boah.in.gov](mailto:animalhealth@boah.in.gov)