NEW Scrapie Tag Test Drive

Sheep and Goat Producers May Apply for Free Tags

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently approved a new style of tag for the scrapie program. The plastic clip style tag, manufactured by Shearwell Data, features a visible animal ID number and an embedded RFID chip.

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has obtained a small quantity of tags and tag applicators through federal funding. Because this recently approved tag has not been widely available in the United States, BOAH wants to hear from producers about how the tags perform on the farm:

- How is retention in different breeds?
- Does the plastic format help with readability compared to metal clips?
- Did ears become infected after being tagged?
- Does the small size prevent tags getting caught in a feeder or fence?

To generate feedback, BOAH is launching a Scrapie Tag Test Drive. Sheep and goat owners may apply to receive a specific quantity of tags and an applicator at no charge.

Participants will be asked to monitor their sheep/goats and report back to BOAH about performance of the tags.

This real-life feedback will help BOAH determine how widely the tags should be used in the overall scrapie program.

“We want to have broad representation of Indiana’s sheep and goat industry participating in the Test Drive,” said Dr. Miller, BOAH Scrapie Program Director. “We want to be sure these tags perform well and are effective in all farm situations.”

Important Program Details

- Participants will receive a one-time supply of tags and a tag applicator. The quantity of tags will be determined by BOAH based on flock/herd size.
- The scrapie tags are Shearwell white plastic RFID tags. Tags are pre-numbered and cannot be customized.
- The application is available online at: www.in.gov/boah/2669.htm
- Producers will be required to provide BOAH with feedback regarding these tags at least once a year for 3 consecutive years.
- Contact BOAH with any questions at: 317-544-2400 or animalhealth@boah.in.gov
- Participation is limited. BOAH staff will select participants to ensure the broadest cross section of flock/herd types are represented.