



Please Register Your Goat Herd to Get Scrapie Tags

To eradicate Scrapie in the United States, the USDA requires goats to have herd identification ear tags that list their herd of origin. Enforcement of these rules are now in effect in Colorado and the tags are available to producers.

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among many diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Infected flocks that contain a high percentage of susceptible animals can experience significant production losses. Over a period of several years the number of infected animals has increased. The age at onset of clinical signs has decreased. This makes these flocks economically unviable. Animals sold from infected flocks spread Scrapie to other flocks.

Why are Goats Required to Have Herd Identification?

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) rule change states that goats in the United States are required to be officially identified as of April 25, 2019.

Which Goats Need to be Officially Identified?

- All commercial goats and registered goats. If they are sexually intact regardless of age, and weathers 18 months of age and older that are not in slaughter channels need to be identified.
- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals moving to slaughter.
- All goats that are sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months and older for show or exhibition. Also, if the goats do not have a registration tattoo with registration papers or the tattoo is illegible.

Who Provides Tags?

To get tags, owners must contact the USDA APHIS Area Veterinary Services at 1-866-USDA-TAG for a herd identification number. APHIS will also provide help for owners who get a first time herd identification. They will help owners with ordering a limited number of plastic Scrapie tags at no charge. For more information on Scrapie or animal disease, please call the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Veterinarians Office.