

Official Identification for Sheep and Goats

Official identification may not be removed from an animal once it is applied

The identification methods and devices shown on this document are approved for interstate movement and movement within Minnesota, including exhibition.

TAGS

Official ear tags for sheep and goats must display the US shield. Official ear tags are available by purchasing directly from companies that provide official tags. A list of approved companies can be found on the USDA website at the [APHIS Sheep and Goat Identification page \(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie-tag\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie-tag).

Please be aware, the USDA has allowed first-time registrants to request up to 100 plastic flock tags (ordered from Shearwell) free of charge, if eligible. Applicators are available for purchase from the tag companies.

Flock Identification (ID) Tags

- Includes the flock ID number beginning with state abbreviation (maximum nine characters, including state abbreviation) along with a unique herd management number (maximum six characters).
- Available in plastic or metal.



Sheep/Goat Serial Tags

- Begins with state abbreviation; eight characters total, last four or five are numerical.
- Available in plastic or metal.



AIN (Animal identification number) Tags

- AIN ear tags begin with an official country code followed by an additional 12 digits; 15 digits in total. The official U.S. country code is '840'.
 - May be purchased from most ear tag distributors.



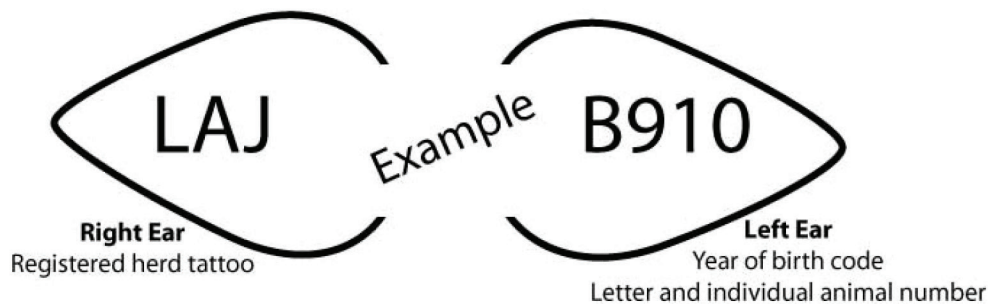
TATTOOS

For any tattoo to be considered as official identification, it must be legible.

Sheep or goats cannot be imported to a livestock concentration point or be in slaughter channels. In addition, some states may require official ear tags for importation.

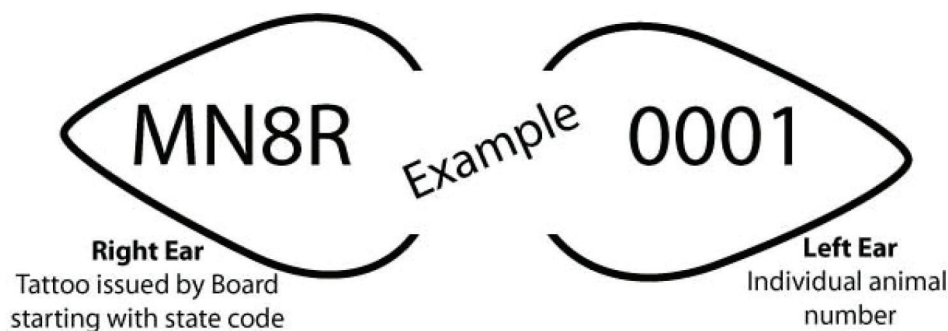
Registered Sheep/Goats

- Breed registry tattoos that are recorded with a sheep or goat registry association.
- Upon movement, the animal must be accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection listing tattoo and registration numbers, and in some cases a Board-issued letter indicating the flock is registered with the National Scrapie Eradication Program.



Non-Registered Sheep/Goats

- State-approved tattoos that are recorded with state animal health officials.
- Tattoo must include the state-approved prefix beginning with the state abbreviation and include a unique animal number.
- Upon movement, the animal must be accompanied by either:
 1. A Board-issued document certifying that the tattoo prefix is recorded with the Board or,
 2. For animals originating outside of Minnesota, a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection which:
 - a) Certifies that the tattoo prefix is assigned in the National Scrapie Database, and
 - b) Lists the flock ID number and the complete tattoo number (including the state-assigned prefix and the animal number).



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