



# ERADICATE SCRAPIE!

NATIONAL SCRAPIE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

[www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie](http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie)

## Markets and Dealers: Your Role in the New Scrapie Eradication Program

As market operators and dealers, your help is key in eradicating the always fatal disease, scrapie, from the nation's sheep flocks and goat herds.

Here's why: scrapie can take from two to five years or more to show clinical signs. You know from personal experience as a market operator or dealer that a given animal could have several owners over a span that long. Your role as a record keeper is absolutely vital in order to trace an infected sheep or goat **back** to where it contracted the disease and **forward** to where it may have spread the disease.

The following Questions & Answers cover the various rules and regulations pertaining to sheep and goat markets and dealers now in effect by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS):

### Q. Are we required to accept sheep and goats that are not identified as required by the new rule?

**A.** No. You may either refuse them or you can identify them and keep the required records. APHIS is encouraging market owners and operators to work with their local APHIS area office and State Veterinarian's Office to develop a policy that will work for you and your customers during the initial implementation of the regulations. APHIS recognizes that in some areas information and/or ear tags have not yet reached producers so during the next few months you are encouraged to discuss the regulations with your customers and refer them to the APHIS toll free number, 1-866-USDA-TAG, to get their free ear tags.

### Q. What records will be required if we buy, sell, or act as an agent for animals NOT GOING into slaughter channels?

**A.** **IF** you buy, sell, or act as an agent for animals that are (1) required to be identified, (2) identified to their flock of origin, and (3) not going into slaughter channels, you must maintain the following records:

- The number of animals.
- The date of transaction.
- The name and address of the person from whom the animals were purchased or otherwise acquired.
- The name and address of the person to whom the animals were sold or otherwise given.
- The flock of origin's (premises) identification number(s) or their serial numbers. For animals identified with serial number tags, you can use a premises number if the animal was accompanied by an owner's statement listing the premises number to which the serial numbers are assigned.
- A copy of the brand inspection certificate, if the sheep are identified solely by their registered brands or ear notches.

**IF** you buy, sell, or act as an agent for animals that are officially identified to a **previous** flock of origin BUT not their **current** flock of origin, you must also:

- Retain a copy of an owner's statement containing the owner's name and address of the current flock of origin and individual animal identification information (see definition of terms);
- OR**
- Record the owner's name and address of the current flock of origin, along with either:
    - the premises identification number and animal number; or,
    - the serial number only on the animal's existing ear tag; or,
    - the serial number on a tag applied at your market.

### Q. What is required of me as the market/dealer when animals have different premises ID but come from one seller?

**A.** For animals in that lot NOT GOING to slaughter, you must keep a record of the number of animals from each premises going to each buyer if there is more than one.

This may be done by applying a temporary ID such as a chalk mark, counting up and recording the number from each premises in the buyer's lot, or by handling each group of animals from the same premises as a separate lot so that the normal business records will yield this information. Another method is by checking and recording the premises number prior to load out.

### Q. What kinds of temporary IDs are allowed?

**A.** You can use any method that works in your operation; some possibilities are back tags, chalk marks, or separate pens.

### Q. What records will be required for animals over 18 months of age GOING into slaughter channels?

**A.** **IF** you buy, sell, or act as an agent for animals that are (1) required to be identified, (2) identified to their flock of origin, and (3) going into slaughter channels, you must maintain the following records:

- The number of animals.
- The date of transaction.
- The name and address of the person from whom the animals were purchased or otherwise acquired.
- The name and address of the person to whom the animals were sold or otherwise given.
- For animals identified solely with registered brands or ear notches, a copy of the brand inspection certificate.

**IF** you buy, sell, or act as an agent for animals that are officially identified to a **previous** flock of origin BUT not their **current** flock of origin, you must also record the owner's name and address of the current flock of origin, along with either:

- Premises identification number and animal number;
- OR**
- Serial number on existing ear tag.

(Note: If the animals are all from the same flock of origin, you may wish to apply an additional ear tag if going into slaughter channels or a back tag if going direct to slaughter, rather than recording the existing tags.)

### Q. What records will be required if our operation buys, sells, or acts as an agent for animals under 18 months of age GOING into slaughter channels?

**A.** Nothing more than your business records that are currently used.

### Q. As a service to my customers, may I identify sheep and goats and may I charge for that service?

**A.** If you provide this service, you may recover your actual costs and add it to your tariff.

**Q. If we, as the market or dealer apply official identification, what records are we required to keep?**

- A.** If the sheep arrive at the market and the market/dealer applies identification provided by **and** assigned to the **producer**, then you are not required to keep any record of the tags applied. The owner is responsible for maintaining the tagging record. The market is responsible for maintaining the sales transactions information outlined on page 1.

If you apply official identification that is assigned to **you** rather than to the owner (the flock of origin), you must maintain the following records:

- The date tagged.
- The number of sheep and the number of goats identified.
- The serial numbers applied.
- The name and address of the owner of the flock of origin.
- The name and address of the owner of the flock of birth, if different than the flock of origin, must be recorded for animals born after 01-01-2002 that are not identified to a previous flock of origin.

(Note: If the flock of birth of these animals is unknown, a slaughter-only tag must be applied and the animals must be moved into slaughter channels only.)

**Q. How long must markets, owners and operators maintain identification records?**

- A.** Because sheep infected with scrapie take two to five years to show clinical signs, markets are required to keep records for five years.

**Q. Where can I find out exactly which animals and/or which category of sheep and goats need identification and which do not?**

- A.** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) has tried to explain the new scrapie regulation and the identification requirements as a service to producers, veterinarians, market operators and other industry stakeholders. The enclosed poster outlining sheep identification requirements will give you general guidelines (please consider displaying the poster in a prominent location). Also, the enclosed brochure explaining *What Producers Need to Know* has valuable information on all aspects of the program. The "flow chart" section of the brochure addressing *Identification Requirements for Sheep and Goats* should be particularly useful as well as Tables 1, 2, and 3 for determining which animals do and do not need identification. NIAA has made this and other information available on the Internet at [www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie](http://www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie) and can provide you with additional posters and brochures if needed by calling 270-782-9798. Specific questions about the scrapie eradication program requirements should be directed to the State Veterinarian's Office or the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services office in your state by calling 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824). **As a market operator or dealer, please call your state VS office for specific questions at the number listed above. NIAA is not equipped to handle anything other than requests for materials.**

**Q. If culled ewes are being shipped to Mexico for slaughter, why must records be kept and maintained?**

- A.** In the future APHIS plans to sample a portion of the animals being shipped to Mexico for scrapie. Also, a percentage of animals rejected for export end up at slaughter plants in the U.S.

**Q. Are there states with additional regulations for the scrapie eradication program?**

- A.** Yes, some states have, or are in the process of, setting up their own procedures consistent with the federal program, but unique to their own state's situation. It is important that you become familiar with these regulations, by checking with your State Veterinarian's Office.

**Definition of Terms**

**Flock of Origin** — a flock in which the animal resided for breeding purposes or, if not used for breeding its flock of birth.

**Premises Identification Number** — also referred to as a flock of origin identification number. This number is assigned to an owner and his/her flock by APHIS for use in the scrapie eradication program. This number will be used on that flock's ear tags and premises tattoos in the program.

**Individual Animal Identification Number** — an individual identifying number for a particular animal. It is the premises number plus the animal number on a premises tag. It is the serial number on serially numbered tags.

**Owner's Statement** — a written statement by the owner, which includes the owner's name, signature, address, phone number and the following:

- Date the animals left the flock of origin,
- The premises identification number(s),
- The number of animals,
- A statement that the animals were either born or were used for breeding purposes on the premises to which the premises identification is assigned.
- Any information needed for the market to identify the animals or maintain records of animals purchased such as:
  - the individual animal identification numbers (serial numbers) of animals that are identified to a previous flock of origin and not the current flock of origin,
- The name and address of the market for animals identified at the market.

**Numbers You Need to Record**

**Which numbers on the tags do I need to record when only premises numbers are required?**

On a **metal tag** the premises number is on the slotted side and the animal number is on the pointed side. Record the premises number from the slotted side. If there is only a state postal abbreviation on the slotted side of the tag, it is a serial number tag. Record the serial number from the pointed side of the tag or record the premises number from the owner's statement.

On **plastic tags** record the numbers on the female side of the tag. If there is only a state postal abbreviation, the tag is a serial number tag. Record the number on the male side of the tag or record the premises number from the owner's statement.

**Which numbers on the tags do I need to record when individual animal ID numbers are required?**

On a **metal tag** record both sides of the tag. The premises number is on the slotted side and the animal number is on the pointed side. Some metal tags may be a serial number tag only. These tags will contain a state postal abbreviation; in this case write down the number on the pointed side only.

On **plastic tags**, record all numbers that are on the male part of the tag. This will include the premises number as well as the animal number.

**Tags with Unique Serial Numbers**

**Plastic Rotary Tags**

Female Part



Male Part



**Metal Tags**

Back (Slotted)



Front (Pointed)



**Serial numbers on above tags are TXA10001 and TXAA001.**

**Premises Tags with Individual Animal ID Numbers**

**Plastic Rotary Tags**

Female Part



Male Part



**Metal Tags**

Back (Slotted)



Front (Pointed)



**Premises number on above tags is TX49015. Animal number on above tags is 0059.**

**The individual animal ID number is the premises number and animal number.**