

Mandatory Scrapie Identification Program Requirements for Sheep and Goats

- The USDA requires tamper-evident official identification on all sheep and goats before they cross state lines. Check with the receiving state to ensure both State and Federal requirements are met.
- Official identification is unique and traceable (i.e. no two animals in the country will have the same combination of letters and numbers, and the ID numbers and flock of origin information are recorded). It identifies the individual animal and the premises/flock/herd of birth. Official ID may be applied in various forms: USDA-issued ear tags, or registered tattoos. (For more on approved forms of Official ID, see page 2.)
- The owner of the flock/herd of origin is the primary person responsible for officially identifying animals and maintaining ID records for at least **five years** after the animal has left the flock/herd.
- No person may remove or tamper with any approved means of official identification.
- If official identification is lost, it must be replaced before the animal is transported. The original ID and replacement ID must be recorded.
- Contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for information on movement of sheep and goats within the state – 850-410-0900.
- Producers are strongly encouraged to identify their animals officially before the animals leave their premises to prevent any error from occurring in later identification of the animals and ensure they will meet interstate movement requirements.

In Florida, contact the USDA-APHIS-VS Area Office at 352-313-3060 or toll free at 866-873-2824 selection 2 to obtain an official identification number for a premises/flock/herd and to request free official ear tags for sheep and goats.