

Mandatory Scrapie Identification Program Requirements for Sheep and Goats

Types of official identification that are acceptable include:

- **Official ear tags** – USDA-APHIS-approved tamper-evident ear tags which provide individual animal identification. As of 2004, USDA-APHIS-VS official ear tags for Florida include the unique combination of the flock identification number and an animal identification number.
 - *Official ear tags do not expire and must not be tampered with or removed*
 - *Official ear tags consist of a two-letter code for the state of birth (FL, GA, TX, etc.) and a series of alpha-numeric characters which identifies the flock of birth and individual animal from that flock.*
 - *Official ear tags come in many shapes and colors – plastic or metal. The plastic tags can be in a variety of shapes or styles, depending on the state and year of issue. All official eartags have the US shield.*
 - *The official ear tag currently being issued through the FL Area Office is the "2X-te Tag" from Premier - a two part, tamper-evident, five-sided, pliable white plastic tag; the flock number (letters FL and five digits) and a four digit animal number are printed in grey lettering.*
- **For breeds of animals without sufficient ear tissue for tagging – Premises identification tattoos** are acceptable if the tattoo is legible and consists of the flock number and a unique animal number. (i.e. same combination of characters as the animal's official ear tag would have)
- **Legible official registry tattoos** that have been recorded in the book of record of a recognized sheep or goat registry association, *if/when the animal is accompanied by either the official registration certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection that includes the corresponding registration number.*
- **Registered electronic microchips/implants** may be used on animals enrolled in the SFCP, but they must be accompanied by an owner statement that includes the electronic microchip numbers and the name of the microchip manufacturer/registry. The owner, or owner's agent, should have a chip-reader as well, to verify microchip placement in the animal.

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.