Scrapie Program ID Requirements

One of the main components of the National Scrapie Eradication Program is the ability to trace sheep or goats that are found positive to Scrapie back to the farms they were born in and those they have spent time in. Therefore Scrapie Identification is mandatory when animals leave flocks.

Instructions for sheep and goat producers:

Animals that must have official Scrapie Identification (ID) before leaving the farm:

1) Sheep – All sexually intact sheep departing from the farm, whether for change of ownership, marketing/slaughter*, or any other sale or lease**, or to attend an exhibition are required to have Scrapie ID. This includes adult breeding animals and ewe lambs and ram lambs of any age. Wethers under 18 months of age do not need Scrapie ID. Official Scrapie ID for sheep in Iowa is a Scrapie ear tag. Tattoos are not recognized as official Scrapie ID in sheep in Iowa.

2) Goats – All sexually intact goats that are registered, are used for exhibition, or that have resided with sheep and are departing from the farm, whether for change of ownership, marketing/slaughter*, or any other sale or lease**, or to attend an exhibition are required to have Scrapie ID. Wethers under 18 months of age are not required to have Scrapie ID. Goats may be identified with either an official Scrapie ear tag or a USDA approved tattoo (call the ear tag order number below for approval of your tattoo).

* Animals under 18 months of age moving directly to a slaughter facility (not through an auction market or dealer) do not require official ID.
** Males which are leased out must be identified to the owner’s flock, and the owner must keep records as to the males’ movements.

Producers are required to maintain records for five years on all animals requiring official ID that enter or depart from their flocks. Records must include the name and address, or official Scrapie flock number of the other party, the flock of origin of the animal (flock where it last resided in which it was either born, or used for breeding purposes), a description of the animal, and the date of the transaction.

When buying animals: Make sure that the animal has Scrapie identification, (unless it is a wether lamb, or certain goats as listed above). Record the information listed above.

When selling animals that require official ID: If the animal does not already have an official Scrapie ID ear tag, then place your official Scrapie ID eartag in the animal before moving from the farm, and it is recommended that you link the Scrapie ID eartag number to your other production records on the animal. If the animal was not born in your flock, and still has the original official Scrapie ID ear tag from the previous flock, then you do not need to apply your ear tag. If the original tag has fallen out, apply your Scrapie Flock ear tag and make a record showing the tag you applied,
and where and when you acquired that animal. Never remove official ID. Create a record of all sales showing the number of animals sold, a description of the animal, the date, and the market or buyer. It is recommended that you also record the official Scrapie ID of the animals sold.

All sheep and goats sold privately other than to slaughter require a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** issued by an Iowa licensed, accredited veterinarian in order to move. (You do not need a CVI to sell through a licensed livestock market or dealer).

| To order FREE Official Scrapie Flock ID Ear Tags, or Register Your Goat Tattoo, call toll free: |
| 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824). |

*Please note: Ear tags take 3-4 weeks to be delivered.*