

## 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. Free ear tags are available by calling 1-866-USDA-TAG or by ordering online at <http://mn.gov/bah/official-id-tags-sheep-goats>.

**Please be aware, the USDA has discontinued distribution of all plastic ear tags and applicators, in addition to metal ear tag applicators, until further notice. Metal ear tags will continue to be offered free of charge. Please visit the USDA website for a [list of approved companies providing official identification tags and applicators](#).**

#### 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.
- As of October 2018, metal tags are orange in color.



#### 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.

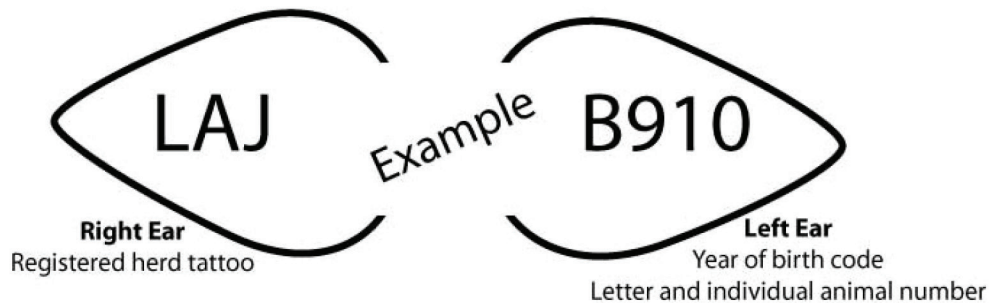


## TATTOOS

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

### 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



### 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).

