

## 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. Official ear tags are available by purchasing directly from companies that provide official tags. A list of approved companies can be found on the USDA website at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa\\_animal\\_disease\\_information/sheep-goat/id](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_animal_disease_information/sheep-goat/id).

**Please be aware, the USDA has allowed first-time registrants to request up to 100 plastic flock tags (ordered from Shearwell) free of charge, if eligible. Applicators are available for purchase from the tag companies.**

#### 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.



#### 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.



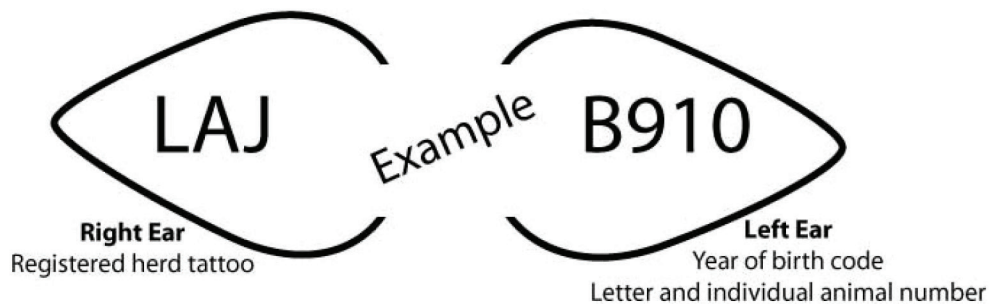
## TATTOOS

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

Sheep or goats cannot be imported to a livestock concentration point or be in slaughter channels. In addition, some states may require official ear tags for importation.

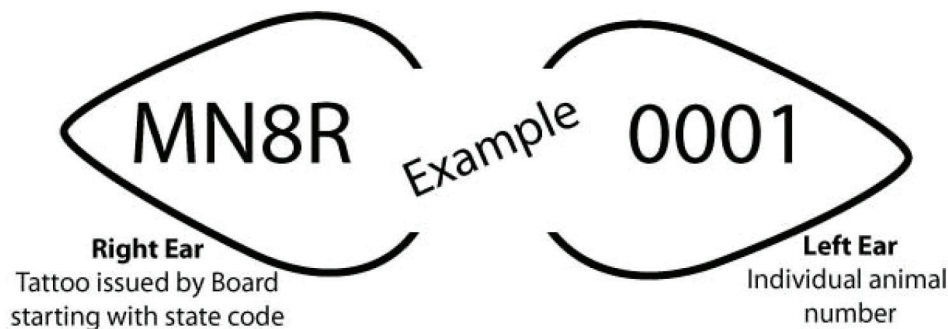
### Registered Sheep/Goats

- 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, and in some cases a Board-issued letter indicating the flock is registered with the National Scrapie Eradication Program.



### 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).



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