

Recent Changes in State Requirements for Identification of Kentucky Goats and Sheep

Terry Hutchens, Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky

The State Veterinarian's Office of Kentucky recently released information regarding the requirement for **Scrapie Tag** identification for all goats and sheep entering into public or private commerce. In other words, all goats and sheep of any classification must be identified by a scrapie tag each and every time they change hands regardless of purpose of the transaction. This applies to all goats and sheep in regards to breeding stock or slaughter animals. Please note that this will go into effect **July 1, 2006**. I am sure that if a producer enters a stockyard for the purpose of selling untagged livestock, they will be charged \$2-\$3 per head for tags.

In order to avoid problems associated with marketing your goats and sheep in Kentucky sign up for the USDA, Scrapie Eradication Program. Producers may follow the procedure described below.

- Producers are required to obtain a **Premise ID** by completing an application in your Cooperative Extension Office or by applying online at the following web address. <http://www.kyagr.com> and follow the Premise ID, **click here** instructions.
- Complete the **Kentucky Tag Order** form and mail or fax the form to the USDA, APHIS, office, P.O. Box 399, Frankfort Kentucky, 502-227-9651. The USDA will provide producers with the proper form and information. Each farm will be provided a unique identification number along with up to 200 tags with tagger free of charge.

The scrapie program is an excellent program for the purpose of animal trace back to the farm-of-origin. Secondly, this program is less costly to the producer. By contrast, electronic tags will cost the producer \$2-\$3 per head. For additional information contact your county Cooperative Extension Office.

Letter From:
Robert C. Stout, DVM Michael Judge
Executive Director/State Veterinarian Executive Director

January 12, 2006

Dear Sheep and Goat Producers:

As many of you know, Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's). In order to effectively eliminate Scrapie from the sheep and goat herds in the United States, the USDA implemented the Accelerated Scrapie Eradication Program in 2002.

In regards to the Scrapie Eradication Program, Kentucky has been considered a consistent state meaning that we have met the guidelines set forth by the USDA to control and eliminate Scrapie. However, in order for Kentucky to maintain our consistent status, the USDA is requiring additional regulations dealing with the official identification upon change of ownership for sheep and goats.

Effective **July 1, 2006** all sheep and goats need to be identified with a Scrapie animal ID ear tag or other official individual animal ID ear tag prior to marketing or any change of ownership, as well as for all graded sales. This requirement will be mandatory as of July 1, 2006, but the Office of the State Veterinarian and the Office of Agriculture Marketing and Promotion encourage producers to begin immediately to secure the ear tags and present their animals at the livestock market already tagged.

These eartags should never be removed from the animal and replaced with a different or new eartag. Scrapie ear tags are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture free of charge at this time and are official animal identification tags. If you do not have Scrapie tags please follow the steps below:

- Fill out the enclosed premises registration form and Scrapie tag order form. A premises number is required to receive Scrapie tags.
- Return form to an Animal Health Inspector at the livestock market OR mail to address on form.
- *Animals originating from States other than Kentucky should come into the state identified with their state's Scrapie tag. Contact your state APHIS/USDA office to order Scrapie tags.*

For questions or more information please call Tess Caudill at 502-564-4983 or Buddy Pence at 502-564-3956.

Office of the State Veterinarian Office of Ag Marketing and
Product Promotion

Robert C. Stout, DVM Michael Judge

Executive Director/State Veterinarian Executive Director

Kentucky Tag Order/ Tattoo Registration Form

Owner Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

City _____, Kentucky Zip Code _____

County _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Primary Breed _____

Flock Size (Breeding animals) _____

Number of Tags **10** **20** **40** **60** **80** **100** **Other** _____
(circle the number)

(Order enough tags to identify
all animals required to be
tagged over the next two years)

Send me information on the Scrapie Flock Certification Program

My goats are identified with a registered tattoo. Please send me information on using the
tattoos to meet the identification requirements.

My tattoo is _____

Return this form to the following address

**USDA, APHIS, VS
P.O. Box 399
Frankfort, KY 40602
Phone (502) 227-9651**

Or you may FAX this form to (502) 223-7121