

# Sheep and Goat ID Requirements

### Table 1. Official Identification Numbers for Individual Animals

<b>National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)</b>	8 character	23 AB 4574
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swine and other species (except sheep and goats)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 2 numeric State or Tribal code</li> <li>o 2 alphabetical series</li> <li>o 4 digits in a numerical series</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Sheep and goats (exclusive to scrapie program)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 2 alpha postal abbreviation</li> <li>o 2 alphabetical or alphanumeric series</li> <li>o 4 digits in a numerical series</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PA AB 4574 or PA A2 4574
<b>Animal identification number (AIN)</b>	15 digits; 840 are the first three digits (numeric code for USA)	840 003 123 456 789
	Note: ICAR manufacturer codes or “USA” can be used as the first three characters for tags manufactured before March 11, 2014 and applied to the animal before March 11, 2015.	900 152 123 456 789 USA 000 097 499 999
<b>Flock-based number</b> <i>with herd management number</i>	Flock identification number (maximum of 9 characters prefixed with State’s postal abbreviation) with a unique herd management number (up to 6 characters). Does not include I, O or Q except as part of a postal abbreviation.	MN0456 4275
<b>Location-based number<sup>3</sup></b> <i>With the herd management number</i>	Either a premises identification number (PIN) or location identification number (LID) with a unique herd management number PINs have 7 character and LIDs may have 6, 7 or 8 characters and the herd management number may have up to 6 characters.	006ER2A 4275
<b>National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) Tags</b> (See Tables 4 and 5.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commonly referred to as “Silver” or “Brite” tags.</li> <li>- Historically used for disease testing and interstate movement.</li> <li>- VS Memorandum 578.12 revised March 15, 2011 to allow distribution to producers through State and Tribal authorities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sheep and goat tags</b> (See Tables 7 and 8.)	Serial and flock identification tags including scrapie flock certification program tags approved through the scrapie program and provided at no cost to producers, markets, veterinarians, etc., through State or AVIC offices. “840” tags are also provided for regulatory work in infected and exposed flocks. Producers may purchase customized flock identification or “840” tags from approved tag manufacturers.	

**Table 5. National Uniform Eartagging System – NUES Tag**  
*8-character Format with State/Tribe numeric code*

Tag Information	Description
<b>Program use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 character NUES tags with State/Tribe numeric code are not used for a specific disease program and may not be used in place of a scrapie program tag for sheep and goats</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: 8 character NUES tags with State/Tribe alpha code are reserved for the scrapie program. See scrapie program serial tags for more information.</p>
<b>Material type</b>	Metal
<b>Color</b>	Silver and other color options
<b>Species used on</b>	Most commonly used on species with smaller ears (deer/elk, swine, etc., except sheep and goats).
<b>Information on the tag</b>	<p>Front of tag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 numeric characters representing State or Tribal code</li> <li>or</li> <li>- 2 alpha characters for State postal abbreviation for scrapie program tags</li> <li>- 2 alpha characters in an alphabetical series</li> <li>- 4 digits in a sequential series</li> </ul> <p>Example: 23BG0575</p>
	<p>Back of tag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- "VS" is imprinted adjacent to the shield on tags procured by APHIS VS</li> <li>- "VS" is not imprinted on NUES tags purchased by States or Tribes.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional printing specifications</b>	Printing other information is allowed as long as the print size specification of the required information is maintained.
<b>Issued/distributed to</b>	Federal & State animal health officials, accredited veterinarians. Distribution to producers through accredited veterinarians or State/Tribe Animal Health Officials is optional and determined by the State or Tribe according to VS Memorandum 578.12 revised March 15, 2011.
<b>Distribution records/reporting</b>	Tag distribution records maintained by the State or Tribe. In some States, the administration of the NUES tags may be shared with the AVIC office. The Animal Identification Management System may be used for maintaining the distribution records.
<b>Other comments</b>	
<b>How to obtain</b>	Contact the State and Federal animal health officials, Tribal authority, accredited veterinarians. Approved NUES tag listing is provided at: <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_nues.pdf">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_nues.pdf</a> .





**Table 6. Animal Identification Number (AIN) “840” Tags**

Tag Information	Description
Program use	Applicable for all official identification requirements
Material type	Plastic: With or without RFID
Color	Various colors
Species used on	Various sizes and shapes. Eartags are approved separately and specify for which species they can be used. Either ear application, but left ear recommended to avoid conflict with placing of brucellosis calfhood vaccination tattoo in right ear of female bovine/bison eligible calves.
Information on the tag For describing 2-piece tags, the designation of “Tag Piece A,” is the piece attached to the inside of the animal’s ear (visual from the front of the animal). “Tag Piece B” is the piece attached to the outside of the animal’s ear (visual from behind the animal).	<p>Tag Piece A: Inside of ear; visible from the front of the animal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- 15-digit code with 840 as first 3 digits (numeric code for USA)</li> <li>- Manufacturer’s logo or trademark (printed or impression of)</li> <li>- 2D symbology code representing the AIN (tags printed after July, 2013)</li> </ul> <p>Tag Piece B: Outside the ear; visible from behind the animal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE</li> </ul> <p>- Imprinting the AIN on Tag Piece B is optional. If this is the case, the tag set is packaged so that the tag pieces stay together as a pair before being applied.</p> <p><i>Note: Print specification for swine tags is different due to species anatomical differences in providing functional visibility of information imprinted on swine tags.</i></p>
Additional printing specifications	<p>All tags have minimum print size specifications for required information imprinted on the tags. Other information, most applicable to the panel tags, may be imprinted on the tag if it does not reduce the readability of the required information.</p> <p>Tags with RFID must have all 15 digits of the AIN printed on the tag pieces that contain the transponder.</p>
Issued/distributed to	<p>USDA approves all “840” AIN devices and allocates AINs only to authorized manufacturers that use the numbers on approved devices.</p> <p>AIN manufacturers distribute tags through AIN managers with whom they have an agreement and directly to State/Federal animal health officials. AIN manufacturers may be AIN managers.</p>
Distribution records/reporting	<p>The entity (animal health officials or AIN manufacturer or managers) that provides the tag to the producer is responsible for having the distribution records entered/submitted to the Animal Identification Management System (AIMS). Likewise, if the tag is distributed to an AIN distributor, the distribution record is to be submitted to the AIMS. When issued for sheep and goats, the tag record must be administered through the scrapie program tag application of AIMS.</p> <p>A premises identification number (PIN) or Location Identifier (LID) of the farm or ranch is required and is used for reporting the distribution record to the Animal Identification Management System.</p>
Other comments	Tag pairs displaying the same AIN (duplicate AINs) are available for application

	to the same animal only (combination of visual tags or visual and RFID).
How to obtain	Producers and State Animal Health Officials may purchase AIN tags from AIN managers representing authorized AIN tag manufacturers (contact AIN manufacturers for information on their AIN managers). See listing at: <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/AIN_device_list.pdf">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/AIN_device_list.pdf</a>

## AIN Tags with 840 prefix

AIN Panel Tag (Visual Only)	AIN RF Button Tags	AIN RF Panel Tags
		
Example of "Industry Logo" AIN Tag	Paired AIN Visual/RFID Tag Set	
		

## AIN Tags with ICAR Manufacturer Code and “USA” prefix




Mfr Code and USA Prefix AIN Tags	AIN Tag with Mfr Code	AIN Tag with “USA” Prefix
<p>AIN Tags that use the manufacturer codes (900 series) or the “USA” prefix are official for tags manufactured before March 11, 2014 and applied to animals before March 11, 2015.</p> <p>These tags do not have the Official Eartag Shield imprinted on the tag.</p>		<p>Photo Not Available</p>
AIN tags with “USA” and Truncated Animal Number		
<p>APHIS has recognized as official a variation of the AIN with the USA prefix.</p> <p>Eartags imprinted with “USA” followed by the 8- or 9-digit number applied to animals before March 11, 2015 are recognized as official for the life of the animal.</p> <p>For example, the 15 character number, “USA 000 097 499 999” may have USA 97 499 999 imprinted on the tag.</p>		



Table 7. Flock Identification Tags

Tag Information	Description
<b>Program use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scrapie eradication program</li> <li>- Applicable for all official identification needs of sheep or goats; however, tags must be applied in accordance with scrapie program application and recordkeeping requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Material type</b>	Plastic or metal
<b>Color</b>	USDA-provided tags are white or blue (slaughter only). Producers can purchase tags in various colors.
<b>Species used on</b>	Sheep and goats
<b>Information on the tag</b> For describing 2-piece tags, the designation of "Tag Piece A," is the female piece typically attached to the inside of the animal's ear (visual from the front of the animal). "Tag Piece B" is the male piece typically attached to the outside of the animal's ear (visual from behind the animal).	Plastic –Tag Piece A: Inside of ear; visible from the front of the animal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- Flock identification number (maximum of 9 characters with first two the State abbreviation)</li> <li>- Unique herd management number (maximum of 6 characters)</li> <li>- Manufacturer's logo or trademark (printed or impression of)</li> </ul> Plastic – Tag Piece B: Outside the ear; visible from behind the animal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE</li> <li>- May include the flock identification number (maximum of 9 characters with first two the State abbreviation) and/or unique herd management number</li> </ul>
	Metal single piece – Front of tag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flock identification number (maximum of 8 characters with first two the State abbreviation)</li> </ul> Metal single piece – Back of tag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- Unique herd management number up to 6 digits in a sequential series</li> </ul> Example: PA0575 4567
<b>Additional printing specifications</b>	May include customized printing in addition to the required printing on producer purchased tags. May include "SFCP" (Scrapie Flock Certification Program) when issued to participating producers.
<b>Issued/distributed to</b>	Producers who own flocks
<b>Distribution records/reporting</b>	Distributed through AIMS directly from approved tag manufacturer to producer
<b>Other comments</b>	Mandatory USDA identification program for sheep and goats. Producers in the voluntary SFCP program may have tags imprinted with SFCP. All sheep over 18 months of age; sexually intact sheep under 18 months of age that are sold for breeding or exhibition; sheep sold unrestricted, sheep not in slaughter channels; and sheep that have lambed or are pregnant. Sexually intact goats not in slaughter channels of any age that do not meet the requirements to be considered low risk commercial goats, such as those that are registered, sold for commercial milk production, sold or used for exhibition or commingled with sheep.
<b>How to obtain</b>	Producers order tags through AVIC or State office or purchase directly from approved tag manufacturers.

## Flock Identification Tags



SCR-FDX840-REG



SCR-FDX840-REG  
SFCP Tag Option

XX represents State postal code.



**Table 8. Scrapie Program Serial Tags**

Tag Information	Description
<b>Program use</b>	Scrapie program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicable for all official identification needs of sheep or goats; however, tags must be applied in accordance with scrapie program application and recordkeeping requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Material type</b>	Plastic or metal
<b>Color</b>	White for sheep and goats eligible to move as breeding animals and blue for "slaughter only" animals. Red metal is used for live scrapie positive animals. Yellow metal is used for permanently restricted high risk animals.
<b>Species used on</b>	Sheep and goats
<b>Information on the tag</b> For describing 2-piece tags, the designation of "Tag Piece A," is the female piece typically attached to the inside of the animal's ear (visual from the front of the animal). "Tag Piece B" is the male piece typically attached to the outside of the animal's ear (visual from behind the animal).	Tag Piece A: Inside of ear; visible from the front of the animal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- 8 characters</li> <li>- State postal abbreviation followed by a letter and number or a number and a letter, then 4 numbers (Examples: PAA12345 or PA1A2345)</li> <li>- Manufacturer's logo or trademark (printed or impression of)</li> </ul>
	Tag Piece B: Outside the ear; visible from behind the animal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official eartag shield</li> <li>- UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE</li> </ul>
	Metal single piece – Front of tag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 characters</li> <li>- State postal abbreviation followed by two letters and 4 numbers (Example: PABG0575)</li> </ul> Metal single piece – Back of tag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State postal abbreviation and Official eartag shield</li> </ul> Metal – inside tag, tag company name
<b>Additional printing specifications</b>	Blue tags are printed with "SLAUGHTER ONLY," "MEAT ONLY," or "MEAT" on the back or Tag Piece B (male part). Red metal has SCR printed on the back. Yellow metal has HR or EX printed on the back.
<b>Issued/distributed to</b>	Markets, dealers, veterinarians, feedlot operators and others who do not own breeding flocks
<b>Distribution records/reporting</b>	Distributed through AIMS
<b>Other comments</b>	Mandatory USDA identification program for sheep and goats. All sheep over 18 months of age; sexually intact sheep under 18 months of age that are sold for breeding or exhibition; sheep sold unrestricted, sheep not in slaughter channels; and sheep that have lambled or are pregnant. Sexually intact goats not in slaughter channels of any age that do not meet the requirements to be considered low risk commercial goats, such as those that are registered, sold for commercial milk production, sold or used for exhibition, or commingled with sheep.
<b>How to obtain</b>	Markets, dealers, veterinarians, feedlot operators and others who do not own breeding flocks order tags through AVIC or State office.



## Scrapie Program Serial Tags

White - applied to sheep/goats that meet the requirements to move for any purpose.



Blue Slaughter Only / MEAT Tags



Red Scrapie Positive Tag



Yellow High Risk Animal Tag – applied only to retained permanently restricted scrapie high risk animals

