

Scrapie Requirements for Show Season

As we are quickly approaching summer shows we should review the scrapie requirements for interstate movement. All shows, including your local county fair, are considered interstate movement. All breeding sheep require the flock of origin scrapie tag regardless of their age. The lamb's owner should put this tag in the ear at the time of the lamb's birth. They do not necessarily need to be tagged at birth but do need to be tagged before they leave the farm.



These requirements have raised a number of common questions:

Do wether lambs need to have scrapie tags?

All castrated male lambs are exempt from the scrapie requirement. They do not have to be tagged with an official tag. All intact ram lambs must be tagged regardless of age.

I purchased a ewe from a breeder last year and plan to show her this year. Can I tag her with tags that were issued to me?

Yes, even though she was not born on your farm you can use your tag. You should note in your records that she was a purchased ewe and from whom you purchased her.

I purchased a lamb from a breeder and it was tagged. Now it has lost its tag. What do I do?

You should tag the ewe with your tag and note in your records the previous owner and if possible the number of the tag that was lost.

I am only planning on going to our county fair. Do my sheep need tags?

Any show, even county fairs, is considered interstate movement and all breeding sheep require tags.

I am only showing a market ewe lamb. Does she need a tag?

Yes, because she is a ewe lamb she needs a tag even though you do not intend on breeding her.

I am going to purchase my lambs from a neighbor. Do they need tags?

If you intend on showing the lambs I would encourage you to have your neighbor tag them before or at the time of purchase. Within state sale of sheep is not covered by the Federal Regulations but it is in your best interest to have all sheep that you are purchasing tagged by the seller.

Can my sheep acquire scrapie from other sheep at the show?

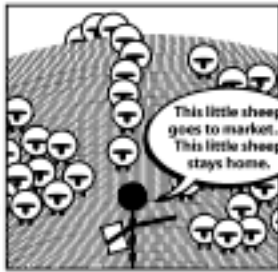
Sheep from a flock that is quarantined for scrapie are not allowed to go to shows. Contact at a show is considered limited exposure and is a low risk for scrapie transmission. Lambing time is the highest risk time period for scrapie transmission. Contact with placental fluid and afterbirth may cause transmission to offspring and lambs from other ewes.

Last year we were not required to have health papers to attend shows. Will this change?

Show health requirements/regulations are made by the State Veterinarian in the state of the show and/or the show or fair management. You should check with the show a few weeks before as the requirements may be different this year.

How to Comply with the New Scrapie Eradication Program

Step 1



Determine which of your sheep or goats need official ear tags or other official ID to move interstate.

Step 2



Request a flock ID number from your local APHIS Veterinary Services office.

Step 3



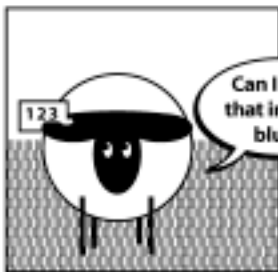
Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems will work best for you.

Step 4



Set up a method to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.

Step 5



Tag the animals before they leave your premises.

Step 6



Get a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian prior to interstate commerce of animals for breeding or exhibition.

Step 7



Retain records for at least 5 years from the time the animals are transported or sold.

Step 8



For more information, call toll-free 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824)