Is official ID needed when leaving the farm?

12 MONTHS AND OLDER
ALL ANIMALS NEED ID when they leave the farm for any reason.

YOUNGER THAN 12 MONTHS
MOST NEED ID unless they are neutered or are going directly to a slaughter establishment.
A livestock market, auction, or private home or farm is NOT a slaughter establishment.

DO NOT
Use your flock tags on another person’s animals
Receive animals without official identification

IF IN DOUBT, USE ID!

FOR FREE IDENTIFICATION TAGS:
Call 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824)

FOR MORE WISCONSIN IMPORT INFORMATION:
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov
608-224-4874

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:
• legis.wisconsin.gov/rsb/code/atcp/atcp010.pdf

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES ON SHEEP AND GOAT DISEASES:
Scrapie
• eradicatescrapie.org
• aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/index.shtml
• sheepusa.org/ResearchEducation_OnlineEducation_Scrapie

Johne’s disease
• johnes.org
• johnesdisease.org

Other sites for information
• sheepandgoat.com
• sheepusa.org

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Animal Health
datcp.wi.gov

This material was made possible, in part, by a cooperative agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It may not necessarily express APHIS’ view.
**Why is official individual identification important?**

There are three primary reasons that official individual identification (ID) should be maintained.

1. In most cases, such identification is required by Wisconsin state law to move sheep and goats from the source farm.
2. Identification and maintaining records for at least five years is an essential component in keeping a flock/ herd and premises safe from disease.
3. Successful disease control instills confidence in consumers about Wisconsin sheep and goats and the products they generate.

Official identification of animals allows for rapid identification of animals and premises exposed to diseases such as scrapie and tuberculosis to minimize negative effects of disease on individual animals, flocks/ herds, and producers.

**When do Wisconsin sheep and goats need official identification?**

All sheep and goats in Wisconsin need official identification when they are being moved to or from your farm and are 12 months of age or older. This includes, but is not limited to, movement to markets, fairs, other farms, exhibitions, and even transport to veterinary clinics and other states.

Sheep or goats younger than 12 months require identification when they are being moved to or from your farm, unless they are neutered or going directly to a slaughter establishment.

**What if I bring sheep or goats into Wisconsin from another state?**

All sheep and goats brought into Wisconsin require official identification. They must also have a valid certificate of veterinary inspection unless they are going directly to slaughter. Contact DATCP for any additional requirements. Visit our website at animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov.

**What if I send sheep or goats out of Wisconsin to another state?**

All sheep and goats moving out of Wisconsin must be identified as required for movement in Wisconsin. Additionally, the USDA requires a certificate of veterinary inspection for sheep and goats not moving in slaughter channels. Contact the destination state for any additional requirements. Visit our website at animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov.

**What is not considered to be official individual identification?**

The following are NOT considered official individual identification:

- Farm management ID tags that do not include the U.S. shield
- Animal names

**Only ONE of the following official forms of identification is required.**

**Ear Tags**

*(official ear tags have U.S. shield)*

- Metal or plastic scrapie ear tag with flock ID and management number

- Metal or plastic “serial” ear tag that has numbers and letters

- For sale to slaughter, a blue metal or plastic ear tag that has numbers and one of the following statements “SLAUGHTER ONLY” or “MEAT” is acceptable, but not required

**Official USDA RFID Tag**

- 15 digit number beginning with “840”

**Legible Tattoos**

Breed association or registration tattoo with management number accompanied by registration papers in owner’s name

OR

Flock ID along with a unique management number

**USDA Approved Implanted Microchips**

This may be used for animals with a breed registry or within a Scrapie flock certification program. Microchips must be accompanied by electronic reader AND one of the following:

- Registration papers in owner’s name

OR

- Certificate of veterinary inspection with implant number