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
ALL NEED ID unless they are neutered or are going directly into slaughter channels or to a slaughter establishment.

A livestock market, auction, 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 COLORADO IMPORT INFORMATION:
Colorado Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Division
colorado.gov/ag/animals
303-869-9141

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

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

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

Official
Individual Identification Requirements

FOR SHEEP AND GOATS in Colorado

United State Department of Agriculture
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
Safeguarding American Agriculture

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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 Colorado 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 Colorado sheep and goats and the products they generate.

Official identification of livestock 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 Colorado sheep and goats need official identification?

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.

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

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

All sheep and goats brought into Colorado require official identification. They must also have a valid certificate of veterinary inspection unless they are going directly into slaughter channels or slaughter. Contact CDA for any additional requirements. Visit our website at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals.

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

All sheep and goats moving out of Colorado must be identified in the same way as required for movement into Colorado. Additionally, the USDA requires a certificate of veterinary inspection for out-of-state movement unless moving directly to slaughter. Contact the destination State for any additional requirements. Visit our website at: www.colorado.gov/ag/animals

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 flock ID.
- Animal names

Only ONE of the following official forms of identification is 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 accompanied by flock tag.

USDA Approved 840 Implanted microchips
ISO Compliant
Accompanied by electronic reader AND the REGISTRATION PAPERS in owner’s name