

SCRAPIE TAGS: OFFICIAL USDA IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GOATS

Scrapie tags are issued to producers/farms for the purpose of tracking livestock. Regulations are being enforced even for small livestock; *this includes all goats*.

Every goat **MUST** have approved identification to gain access to the fairgrounds. There are **NO** exceptions to this rule. These guidelines are put in place by the United States Department of Agriculture and enforced by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Get your records in order and put them in a safe place so you're ready for fair!

You are responsible for making sure your goat has **ONE** of the following:

- 1) A Scrapie Tag in the goat's ear.



OR

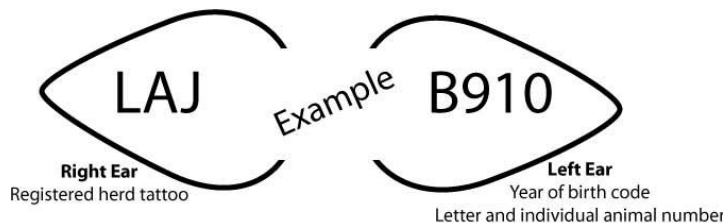
- 2) A Scrapie Tag attached to **IDENTIFICATION PAPERS**; Goat has a tattoo with FARM NUMBER and GOAT ID NUMBER that matches the Scrapie tag number. Tattoo is done by breeder in lieu of attaching the tag directly to the goat's ear. *Tattooing must be done in the proper ears.*

Tattoo numbers will be checked and must match the tag that is attached to your **IDENTIFICATION PAPERS**.

NOTE – You must keep the Scrapie Tag provided by the breeder, and present it on your ID Papers in order to get into the barn at fair.

OR

- 3) Registered Animals Only: If your goat is registered with an official national association breed registry (American Dairy Goat Association, National Pygmy Goat Association, American Boer Goat Association, etc.), they will have either a tattoo or a microchip on place. You must have the **REGISTRATION PAPERS** in your possession – tattoo must match the ID number on the Registration paperwork.



Questions? Call the Goat Specie chair for more assistance!

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Scrapie - Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is 'scrapie' - and why is this a big deal?**

Scrapie is a degenerative and eventually fatal disease that affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats. The eradication of this disease is dependent on a number of things – including good recordkeeping and tracking of animals. The scrapie tag is used to *trace back* or *trace forward* the movement of animals as producers/breeders sell livestock within their state borders - and beyond those borders.

- **When should my goat get their Identification tag?**

Goats must be officially identified prior to selling them or transporting them from their place of birth. Records of the tags, and other ID and sale records must be kept for 5 years.

- **If I don't have scrapie tags issued to my property or farm, can I use one of my friend's?**

NO. If you have an animal without a proper identification number already in place, call the Specie Chair. Using others' tags defeats the purpose of the scrapie tag program.

- **If I don't have the right papers, or an ID number, what happens when I get to the fairgrounds?**

Your goat will be sent home. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Unfortunately, we cannot allow any animal on the grounds without having proper identification in place that will hold up to an inspection.

- **I had a scrapie tag – but cannot find it. What now?**

Call your breeder, or the farm where you purchased your animal from and ask if they can assist.

- **Where do scrapie tags come from? How do I get my own for my farm or herd?**

Scrapie tags are issued by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS provides ear tags and applicators free of charge. Call 866-873-2824 for more information.

For more information, check out the [APHIS](#) website!

It is illegal to transport goats without having appropriate identification in place. Scrapie tags, once attached to a goat's ear, are not to be removed by any person for any reason.