



Pete Ricketts, Governor

To: Sheep and Goat Producers  
From: Nebraska Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection  
Subject: Scrapie Regulations

The Scrapie Control and Eradication Regulations became effective on September 30, 2005. Copies of the Scrapie Control and Eradication Regulations can be obtained by going to the NDA website at [www.nda.nebraska.gov](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov) or by contacting the APHP office. A summary of the regulations is listed below.

## **Animal Identification**

The purpose of identifying sheep and goats is to enable traceback of Scrapie positive animals to their flock or herd of origin and to trace animals out of the infected flocks. The following animals are required to be identified with official Scrapie tags:

- All breeding sheep regardless of age when change of ownership occurs
- All sheep over 18 months of age when change of ownership occurs
- All sexually intact sheep and goats for exhibition
- All sheep from Scrapie positive, exposed, suspect, or high risk animals
- All sheep and goats from non-compliant flocks
- Breeding goats, except for low risk commercial goats
- All intact feeder sheep sold at an unrestricted sale

An unrestricted sale at a livestock market is one in which breeding, feeding, and slaughter sheep are sold the same day. All sexually intact sheep sold at an unrestricted sale must be identified unless they are lambs nursing their dams. Livestock markets can designate sales as slaughter or feed-for-slaughter only sales (restricted sales). Sexually intact sheep under 18 months of age which are sold at such restricted sales do not need to be identified. However, buyers at restricted sales will be required to sign a statement indicating where the sheep will be slaughtered or fed. Unidentified ewe and ram lambs that do not go directly to slaughter must go to a terminal feedlot that has been approved by APHP.

Currently, all Nebraska sheep and goat markets are operating as unrestricted sales. All ewe and ram lambs sold at these unrestricted sales will need to be identified regardless of age, unless they are nursing their dam. This also applies to high risk goats (those comingled with sheep) for feeding.

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### **Department of Agriculture**

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## **Record Keeping**

All persons who buy, sell or otherwise deal in the ownership or acquisition of sheep and/or goats are required to maintain records on their animals for a period of five years. Persons selling sheep or goats must record the number of animals sold, their identification, date of sale, name, address and phone number of buyer, and the species, breed or class of animals sold. Persons buying sheep or goats must record the number of animals purchased and their identification, date of purchase, name, address and phone number of the seller, and species, breed or class of animals purchased.

Flock owners or their employees who apply official identification to animals shall maintain the following records:

- The date tagged
- The number of sheep and or the number of goats identified
- The entire identification number applied
- The name and address of the owner of the flock of birth, if known (for purchased and untagged sheep)

All sheep and goat owners should have a flock identification number which is obtained from the Veterinary Services Office. The flock identification number is preceded by the letters NE and is present on the official Scrapie tags for each flock. Tags can be ordered by calling the USDA Veterinary Services office at (402) 434-2300 or toll free (866) 873-2824.

If you have questions regarding the Scrapie Control and Eradication Regulation please call the APHP office at (402) 471-2351.