



# Scrapie and Tagging/Tattooing Your Goats and Sheep

2017 PRESENTATION FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY 4-H

BY STEPHANIE MAROUS

# What is Scrapie?

Scrapie is a fatal degenerative disease of the central nervous system of sheep and goats.  
(Basically it is the sheep and goat version of Mad Cow Disease)

Scrapie is commonly spread from a female to her offspring. Other members of the herd can catch it through contact with the placenta or its fluids.

Scrapie can only truly be tested after an animal is dead. This is done by testing the brain tissue and looking for the disease.

# SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Symptoms may take 2-5 years to appear
  - ▶ Head and Neck Tremors
  - ▶ Skin Itching (this is where the term scrapie comes from)
  - ▶ Inability to control legs (remember this attacks the Nervous System)
  - ▶ Good appetite accompanied by weight loss.
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- ▶ Remember just because an animal exhibits these symptoms does not mean it has scrapie. Consult your Vet to rule out possible reasons for symptoms.

# Scrapie Eradication Program

- ▶ The National Scrapie Eradication Program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has reduced the prevalence of scrapie by over 85 percent. To find and eliminate the last few cases in the United States, the cooperation of sheep and goat producers throughout the country is needed.
- ▶ Producers are required to follow Federal and State regulations for officially identifying their sheep and goats. Producers must also keep herd records showing what new animals were added and what animals left the herd/flock

# Scrapie Eradication Program

- ▶ APHIS provides official plastic or metal eartags free of charge to producers. Producers may request free tags by calling 866-USDA-TAG (873-2824).
- ▶ An owner may substitute tattooing for an official identification device
- ▶ You must register your ADGA ,ABGA, or AGS tattoo herd ID with the USDA.

## ATTENTION SHEEP AND GOAT BUYERS!

Sheep or goats with blue metal or plastic official tags (with US shield) that are stamped “MEAT” or “SLAUGHTER ONLY” on one side of the tag, like these pictured below:



**CANNOT** be used for breeding or exhibition (fairs, shows, petting zoos, etc.), but **CAN** go back to a farm to be fed out for slaughter or **CAN** move directly to slaughter. (9 Code of Federal Regulations Part 79.2 & 79.3).

Thank you for your cooperation!

For Information,  
Contact:



USDA, APHIS, VS  
12927 Stonecreek Dr.  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
Phone: (614) 856-4735  
Fax: (614) 866-1086

-OR-

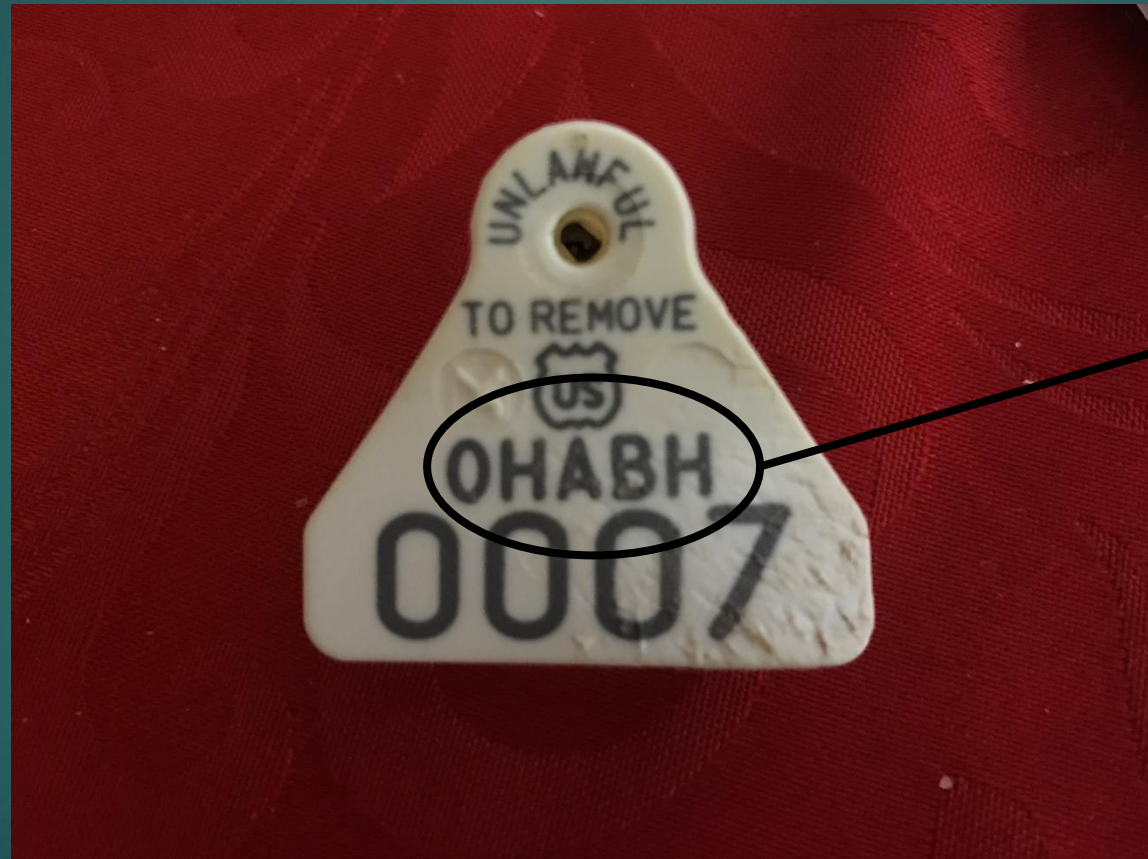


Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Division of Animal Industry  
8995 E. Main St.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
Phone: (614) 728-6220  
Fax: (614) 728-6310

# WARNING

- ▶ Our main message is that sheep and goats with the blue slaughter-only/meat tags cannot be used for exhibition, companion/“lawnmower” or breeding purposes.
- ▶ Blue Tagged Animals CANNOT Be Used As Fair Projects or Exhibited At the Fair!
- ▶ It is unlawful to remove or tamper with official identification.

# SCRAPIE TAG

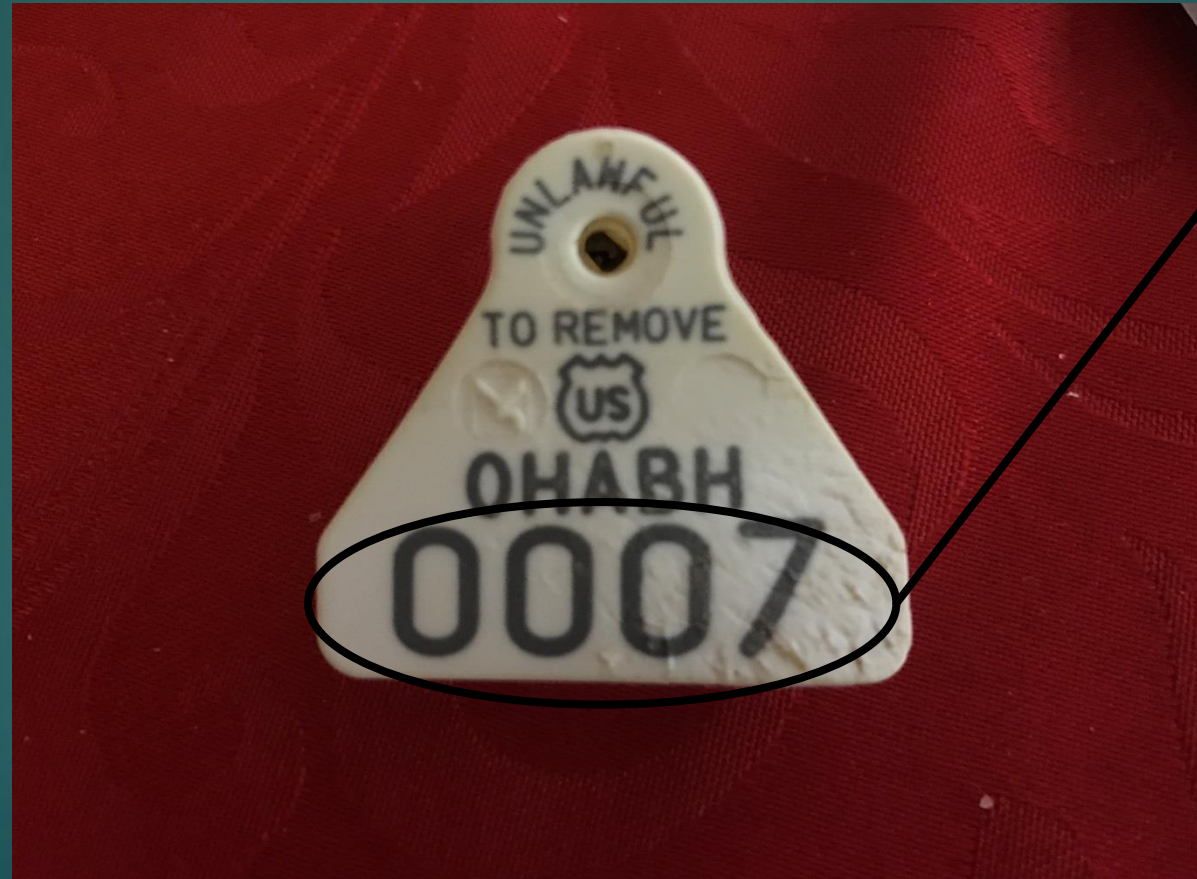


Farm or Herd  
Identification

This number or group of letters is assigned by the USDA. It is unique to the breeder.



# SCRAPIE TAG

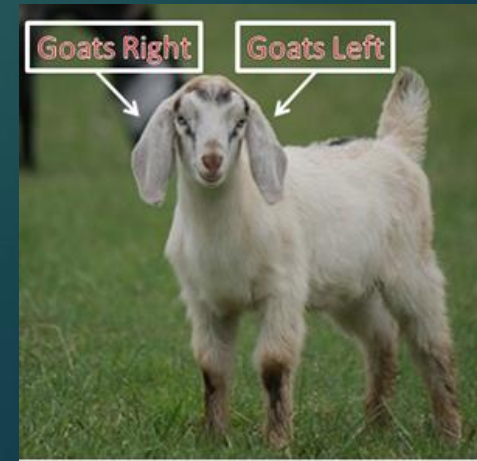


Individual Animal Identification.

Each animal will get its own number. Animals are usually tagged in order of birth.

# TATTOOING

- ▶ It is strongly recommended that all breeds be tattooed in the ears, except the LaMancha which should be tattooed in the tail web. A maximum of four letters and/or numerals are allowed for your assigned tattoo. However, no tattoos will be assigned utilizing one letter followed by a number(s), e.g., K2, D347. (If your ID is assigned solely by the USDA it will be your state Abbreviation followed by a number)
- ▶ Your assigned tattoo should be used in the **RIGHT** ear, right tail, or center tail.



# ADGA INDIVIDUAL ID TATTOO

- ▶ One method of individual identification recommended by ADGA for use in the **LEFT** ear, left tail, or center tail, is to use a letter designating the year of birth – “B”-2011, “C”-2012, “D”-2013, etc. (letters G, I, O, Q, and U are not used) – together with a serial number to designate the order of birth. For example, the first, second, and third kids born into the herd during 2011 should have as their tattoos “B1”, “B2”, and “B3”.
- ▶ **2017 WILL BE THE LETTER “J”**

# ABGA INDIVIDUAL ID TATTOO

- ▶ 2017 Tattoo Year Letter: G
- ▶ 2016 Tattoo Year Letter: F
- ▶ 2015 Tattoo Year Letter: E
- ▶ 2014 Tattoo Year Letter: D
- ▶ 2013 Tattoo Year Letter: C
- ▶ 2012 Tattoo Year Letter: B
- ▶ 2011 Tattoo Year Letter: A
- ▶ If registering with the American Boer Goat Association please note they do not exclude any letters for years which makes their “year” not match the American Dairy Goat Association.

# REFERENCES

- ▶ Onion Creek Ranch  
<http://www.tennesseeameatgoats.com/articles2/scrapie.html>
- ▶ United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Scrapie Fact Sheet  
[http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/animal\\_science/fs\\_scrapie\\_recordkeeping.pdf](http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/animal_science/fs_scrapie_recordkeeping.pdf)
- ▶ American Dairy Goat Association Website <http://adga.org/adga-tattoo-policy-how-to-tattoo-a-dairy-goat/>
- ▶ American Boer Goat Association Website <http://abga.org/abga-education/tattoo-guidelines/>