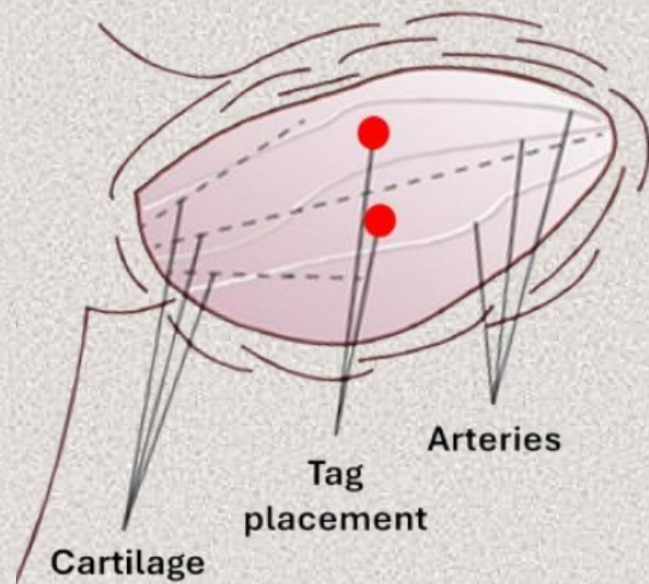


Ear tagging goats

Ear tags are the most common form of identification (ID) for goats, especially non-dairy goats. Besides individual identification, they can denote sex, sire, ownership, or other information. There are many tags to choose from, including electronic and those with GPS tracking. Ear tags vary in size, color, design, and price. It is important to pick the right tags for your animals and management.



In the US, scrapie identification is mandatory. Only certain tags are approved for official scrapie ID.

Best Management Practices

- 1) Properly restrain goat for tagging
- 2) Tag when the ear is dry and clean
- 3) Prioritize hygiene to prevent infections
- 4) Use the right applicator to apply tag and make sure it is working properly.
- 5) Don't tag too close to the head or ear tip
- 6) Avoid major blood vessels in the ear
- 7) For long eared goats, make sure the tag is above or below eye level.
- 8) Use alternative ID for LaMancha goats
- 9) Try not to tag in fly/gnat seasons
- 10) Tag kids, when possible
- 11) Tag during cooler weather, if possible
- 12) Choose plastic tags over metal
- 13) Tag so that the male part is on the inside of the ear
- 14) Insert loop tag on the upper edge of the ear, allowing room to grow.
- 15) Don't use a tag too large for the animal.
- 16) Double tag animals that you keep
- 17) Pair electronic tags with visual ID
- 18) Store tags in dry conditions

