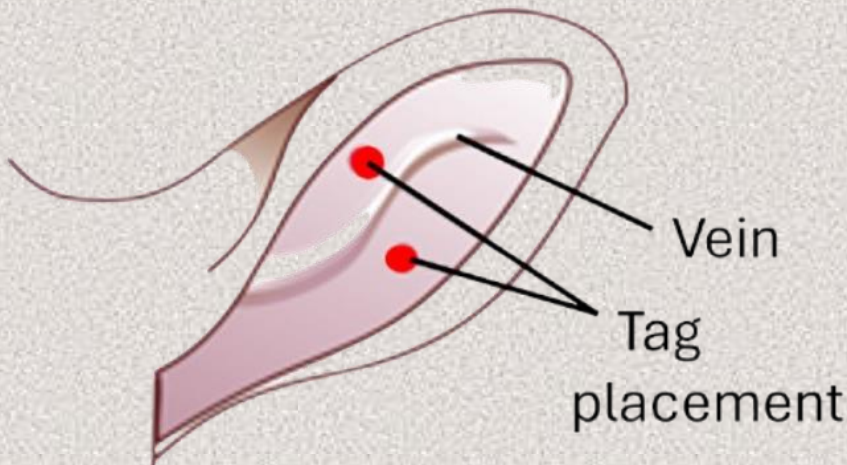


Ear tagging sheep

Ear tags are the most common form of identification (ID) in sheep. 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.



Best Management Practices

- 1) Properly restrain sheep for tagging
- 2) Tag when the ear is dry and clean
- 3) Prioritize hygiene to prevent infections
- 4) Use the right applicator to apply tags and make sure it is working properly
- 5) Don't tag too close to the head or ear tip
- 6) Don't tag too far inside the ear
- 7) Avoid the large veins in the ear
- 8) Tag in cooler, fly-free months, if possible
- 9) Tag lambs, when possible
- 10) Opt for plastic tags over metal
- 11) Don't use a tag too large for the animal.
- 12) Tag so that the male part is on the inside of the ear
- 13) Insert loop tags on the upper edge of the ear, allowing room to grow.
- 14) Double tag animals that you keep.
- 15) Pair electronic tags with visual ID.
- 16) Store tags in dry conditions.

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

