Sheep Identification Requirements

Step 1
Determine which of your sheep need official ear tags or other official ID to move interstate.

Step 2
Request a premises ID number from your local APHIS Veterinary Services office or your State Veterinarian’s office.

Step 3
Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems will work best for you.

Step 4
Set up a method to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.

Step 5
Officially identify the animals before they leave your premises.

Step 6
Get a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian prior to interstate shipment or sale into interstate commerce of animals for breeding or exhibition.

Step 7
Retain records for at least 5 years from the time the animals are transported or sold.

Step 8
For more information, call toll-free 1-866-USDA-TAG. (873-2824)

Baah, where do I fit in?

**Culled Sheep**
Culled ewes or rams must be officially identified/ear tagged. Cull sheep is defined as greater than 18 months of age.

**Fat Lambs**
Lambs under 18 months of age going to slaughter do not need official identification. Ewe lambs under 18 months of age leaving slaughter channels need to be officially identified/ear tagged with records kept for 5 years.

**Breeding Ewe or Ram**
If going to show: Official I.D. required. If going to sale: Official I.D. required. If staying at home: No official I.D. required. Any show/exhibition is considered interstate movement if out of state animals attend.