

Sheep and Goat Tagging



An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

Best Practice

Leaflet

Applying Identification to Sheep and Goats

It is important that ear tagging is carried out correctly to ensure the welfare of your animals. Taking care will also minimise ear tag losses and associated problems.

Follow the guidelines below carefully to ensure that the ear tag is correctly applied and to avoid unnecessary pain or distress to your animals.

- The law does not set out which ear you should apply the electronic tag to, however, we recommend that you apply it to the animal's left ear
- Make sure that your operator is properly trained and competent
- Think carefully about the best type of tags for your animals. Use a suitable style and size of tag for the breed, size and age of animal
- Make sure that the tag is fitted correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions and use the correct pliers for the model of tag you are fitting
- Fit in cool weather (where possible) to minimise 'fly strike' and infections
- Secure the animal's head to prevent jerking during tagging
- Apply tags under hygienic conditions. Make sure that the ear, tag and applicator are clean. You may wish to consider cleaning your equipment and the area in which you are tagging with disinfectant. You may also wish to consider using a topical insecticide on your animal, but should take care to comply with instructions for each product used, so that health and safety regulations are met, and to avoid residues in meat or milk. Check that the chemical you are using does not remove the writing on the tag
- The tag should be placed through the ear, avoiding the main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage. The different styles of tag are designed for different locations in the ear. You should therefore follow the manufacturer's instructions for the tag to perform in the way it was designed. Remember to allow for ear growth when fitting loop tags
- Store unused tags in a clean container.

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DAERA welcomes any feedback you give us about official sheep/Goat ear tags. The form is available from your tag supplier or can be downloaded at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/ear-tag-information>.

Once completed it should be sent back to the Identification Registration and Movement Branch at Jubilee House, [111 Ballykelly Rd, Limavady BT49 9HP](#) or e-mailed to DAERA.ImplementationSupportUnit@daera-ni.gov.uk.