

**ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY FINAL RULE  
AS PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER BY THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ON JANUARY 9, 2013**

On January 9, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published in the Federal Register in Volume 78, Number 6, Part IV the final rule dealing Animal Disease Traceability. This is a 37-page document which can be accessed on the internet by typing "Federal Register Vol. 78, No. 6, Part IV" into your search engine. There are other matters within Vol. 78, No. 6, so be sure and look for Part IV – the final rule dealing with Animal Disease Traceability. I have saved the whole document to my computer, so I can send it to you if you wish.

The key is 9CFR86.4, which is found on page 35 in the middle column of the above referenced 37-page document in the Federal Register. It states:

“(4) Sheep and goats. Sheep and goats that are required to be officially identified for interstate movement under this part must be identified by a device or method authorized by part 79 of this chapter.”

Part 79 is the portion of the Code of Federal Regulations that sets out the Scrapie program. Devices and methods of identification which have been authorized in part 79 will now be officially accepted for interstate movement of sheep and goats under the Animal Disease Traceability final rule. Those authorized devices and methods are copied here from 9CFR79.2:

(i) Electronic implants for animals required to be identified by the SFCP, when used in a flock participating in the SFCP and when accompanied by a certificate or owner statement that includes the electronic implant numbers and the name of the chip manufacturer;

(ii) Official eartags, including tags approved for use in the SFCP or APHIS-approved premises identification number eartags when combined with a unique animal identification number;

(iii) United States Department of Agriculture backtags or official premises identification backtags that include a unique animal identification number, when used on sheep or goats moving directly to slaughter and when applied within 3 inches of the poll on the dorsal surface of the head or neck;

(iv) Legible official registry tattoos that have been recorded in the book of record of a sheep or goat registry association when the animal is accompanied by either a registration certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection. These tattoos may also be used as premises identification if they contain a unique premises prefix that has been linked in the National Scrapie Database with the assigned premises identification number of the flock of origin;

(v) Premises identification eartags or tattoos, if the premises identification method includes a unique animal number or is combined with a flock eartag that has a unique animal number and the animal is accompanied by an owner statement;

(vi) Premises identification when premises identification is allowed by §79.3 and the animal is accompanied by an owner statement; or

(vii) Any other official identification method or device approved by the Administrator.

The usual methods of identification used by NPGA members to move pygmy goats interstate are either by electronic implants or registry tattoos. As can be seen, both are covered by the highlighted portions above. The one area which could be problematic is the interstate movement of unregistered does/bucks or uncertified wethers. A viable solution to this situation would be to microchip the unregistered/uncertified animal and prepare an "owner statement" as described in sub para (i) above.

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