



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

MESSY EARS ARE BEAUTIFUL

The ears of livestock tell us a lot about them and their history.



THE IMPORTANCE OF EARS

Official Identification of livestock is very important. It is permanent ID that follows the animal for its whole life. It allows state and federal animal health officials to track where that animal has been throughout its life, which is important in controlling animal disease.



All official ID tags have the US Shield on them, indicating that they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**IT IS A FEDERAL CRIME TO REMOVE OFFICIAL
IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

December 2024

Official ID Types

OFFICIAL ID COMMONLY FOUND ON LIVESTOCK INCLUDE: RFID 840 TAGS, NUES TAGS, SCRAPIE TAGS, AND REGISTRATION TATTOOS.



RFID 840 TAGS

Also called AIN tags. These are a very popular official ID type in many livestock species. The number always starts with 840 and has 15 digits. These tags can be read visually or with an RFID reading device.



NUES METAL TAGS

Metal NUES tags, also called metal clip tags, begin with the origin state code followed by 2 or 3 letters, then 4 digits. These tags are only visually readable. Only official for cattle and bison if applied before November 5, 2024.



SCRAPIE TAGS (FOR SHEEP AND GOATS ONLY)

Scrapie ID is made up of two parts: the Flock ID number for the flock the animal was born in, and an individual animal ID number. Together they make a unique Scrapie ID number.



REGISTRATION TATTOOS

Tattoos can be used as official ID for animals only if the tattoo is on their registration papers and those papers must accompany the animal as it travels. Tattoos CANNOT be used for crossbred or unregistered animals.