

Canadian Sheep Identification Program - Tagging Requirements for Tagging Sheep

The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) is an industry-led initiative to develop a traceability system and that has the capacity to address producer concerns about sheep health, provide valuable management feedback to producers, and meeting consumer expectations for quality assurance and food safety.

The CSIP program began January 1, 2004. The program is mandatory.

All sheep leaving their flock of origin are to be tagged with an approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) tag. Current approved CSIP tags can be found at the following website:

<http://cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/CSIPProgram/Tags/Tags.aspx>.

CSIP Guidelines for producers

- Tags should be applied according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Ensure that ALL animals are tagged before transport. It is illegal to transport untagged animals.
 - All sheep and lambs must bear an approved CSIP ear tag before they leave their farm of origin
 - This includes animals leaving the premises temporarily (e.g., exhibitions, veterinarian clinics, community pastures)
- Records must be kept of:
 - All sheep and lambs entering your flock for breeding purposes
 - All sheep 18 months and older leaving your farm
 - All sheep & lambs sold as breeding stock including buyer contact information
- It is recommended that producers keep records of all animal movements on and off their premises
- Imported sheep must have a CSIP tag applied within seven (7) days of arrival
- All purchased animals must bear an approved CSIP ear tag. If a tag is subsequently lost, you must immediately apply a new approved CSIP ear tag and record the identification number with as much information about the origin of the animal as is known
- Approved CSIP ear tags must not be removed from any live animal or tampered with for any reason and must not be re-used. If an animal dies on your property, the tag should be removed, saved, and recorded along with the cause of death, if known. Additional records may be required for on-farm deaths. Check with your provincial agriculture department.
- If you apply an approved CSIP tag to an animal that is already tagged, you need to record and cross-reference the numbers.
- Tags must be purchased from an approved distributor. When purchasing tags you will be asked to provide your name, telephone number and address.

Guidelines for feedlot operators, packing plants, livestock dealers and auction marts and truckers can be found at <http://cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/CSIPProgram/Guidelines/Guidelines.aspx>

To order tags producers in:

British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia can purchase their tags through the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers. Check-off fees may apply in these provinces.

Western Canada – 800-567-3693

Atlantic Canada – 902-895-4039

Saskatchewan can purchase their tags through the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board 306-933-5200. Check-off fees apply.

Ontario, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick – can purchase tags from the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers, or other farm supply stores.

Quebec must purchase their tags through Agri-Tracabilite Quebec (ATQ) 866-270-4319