



## Frequently Asked Questions – National Identification and Traceability

Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) hosted three webinars to raise producer awareness of the federal livestock identification and traceability program requirements. Answers to the mostly frequently asked questions are provided below. A number of the answers have been taken directly from Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) brochure *Requirements for Livestock Producers*.

**Question: Can you clarify when sheep and lambs need to be tagged with an approved tag?**

**Answer:** Sheep and lambs must be identified with an approved tag before being removed from their current site. Tags used in sheep must be approved for sheep (as opposed to cattle, or bison for example) and issued for the site at which they are applied.

The list of approved tags for sheep can be found on Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/traceability/indicators/eng/1331582406844/1331582476216#ovi0602>

**Question: What records do I need to keep if I remove sheep that are 18 months or older off of my farm?**

**Answer:**

- the identification number on the sheep's approved tag;
- the date the sheep was moved;
- the reason the sheep was moved; and
- the name and address of the owner or person that will have possession, care or control of the sheep at its new location.

These requirements do not apply to sheep that are transported directly from the farm to an abattoir registered under federal or provincial regulations.

**Question: What records do I need to keep if I receive bred sheep on my farm?**

**Answer:**

- the identification number of the sheep's approved tag;
- the date you received the sheep on your farm; and
- the name and address of the owner or person who had possession, care or control of the sheep at its previous location.

You must keep these records for a minimum of five years.

The Health of Animals Regulations defines **bred** as an animal that is mated either naturally or artificially, or that has provided semen, ova or embryos for reproduction.

**Question: What if I receive sheep that are not identified with an approved tag?**

**Answer:** You must apply an approved tag to sheep or lambs received that have no tag, have an approved tag that has been revoked or that have lost their approved tag.

You may only apply approved tags that are specific for sheep and that have been issued to your site.

**Question: What records do I need to keep when I apply a new tag to those animals?**

**Answer:**

- the identification number of the new tag; and
- enough information about the animal to be able to trace its origin, or as much information as you have available.

*You must keep these records for a minimum of two years.*

**Question: Ketchum pink tags are now revoked. Does this mean I have to retag sheep bearing a Ketchum pink tags before transporting?**

**Answer:** Yes. Once a tag has been revoked, it is no longer an approved tag. Sheep and lambs must be identified with an approved tag before being moved from their current site.

**Question: What if I need to apply a new tag to a sheep that already bears an approved or revoked tag?**

**Answer:** You must report the number of the new approved tag and the number of the previously approved tag to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) within 30 days of the new tag being applied. The regulations require that you DO NOT REMOVE the revoked tag.

**Question: Are there tagging requirements for sheep dead stock?**

**Answer:** They must be identified with an approved tag if you move them off a site, including the farm of origin, for disposal.

*If you dispose of sheep bearing an approved or revoked tag on farm, you must report it to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency within 30 days.*

**Question: How do I report retagging of sheep and disposal of sheep deadstock?**

**Answer:** If you have purchased approved tags in your name you will already have a CCIA account. The account will be set up with the name, address and phone number that you provided to the Tag Dealer/Distributor at the time of your purchase. The account remains in Placeholder status until it is activated by a CCIA Client Support Representative (CSR). If you have not purchased tags, you will have to have an account created.

To activate your account or to have one created, call CCIA at 1-877-909-2333 or email [info@canadaid.ca](mailto:info@canadaid.ca).

CCIA's provides detailed instructions for reporting requirements on their Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) website [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca). Their resource centre (CRC) has step-by-step instructions that make the CLTS easier to use. Reporting can be done online or, where internet



speed is an issue, through file uploads. They also have an app (CLTS MOBO) for use with smart phones accessible through their website or through your phone app store.

**Question: What about the other questions that were asked on the webinars?**

Answer: A more complete question and answer document will be posted on our website [www.OntarioSheep.org](http://www.OntarioSheep.org) in the near future.

