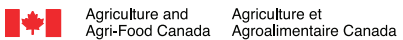




For more information on the tag trial or the National Goat Identification Program:

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National Goat Identification Program

Tag Trial



Goat ID Tag Trial

Seeking producer feedback

The Canadian National Goat Federation (CNGF) has launched a tag trial to gather valuable producer feedback for the development of the National Goat Identification Program (NGIP).

Canadian goat producers play an important role assisting in identifying potential issues that CNGF may need to examine with tag manufacturers. Feedback on tag performance will help ensure the industry has access to the best possible identification (ID) tags.

Regardless of which tag they choose, producers will receive an assessment form upon purchase to assist CNGF in evaluating tags over time and in farm situations. Producers who have previously purchased NGIP-recommended tags can download an assessment form from www.cangoats.ca.



Finding the best tags

The NGIP is currently recommending three types of tags: Reyflex strip tag, Reyflex small panel tag and the Reyflex RFID tag.



- 1) Strip tags** are well suited for newborn dairy animals, fibre animals and tail tagging.
- 2) Small panel tags** are ideal for pasture animals, meat animals and for producers who want more visual identification.
- 3) RFID (radio frequency identification) tags** will appeal to goat producers who want to use an electronic management system.

Benefits of participating in the trial

Producers who are already using their own management tags may want to change to one of the recommended ID tags so they are prepared for the next phase of the NGIP. Animals tagged during the trial phase should not need to be retagged later.

For producers who are not yet using management tags, now is the perfect opportunity to provide valuable feedback, and to take advantage of the on-farm management and husbandry benefits of animal ID.

To order tags, visit www.cangoats.ca or call Ketchum Manufacturing directly at 613-342-7550. The CNGF is currently working on getting more ear tags and animal identifiers included in the trial. Producers will be made aware as soon as this is solidified.

Canadian goat producers play an important role in helping ensure the industry has access to the best possible ID tags.



National Goat Identification Program

Designed for producers by producers

The NGIP is a developmental step towards a mandatory animal identification program for goats, which will be a future regulatory requirement once the federal government's National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS) is in place. The program will include identification tags and numbers, and reporting guidelines that are anticipated to be included in the mandatory ID program.

There are several benefits of a national goat ID program. Animal ID provides accessible records to support on-farm management decisions. Additionally, it provides valuable information facilitating effective industry response to any emergency requiring traceability information such as disease, tainted product, or weather-related emergencies.

Addressing producer needs

The information gleaned from the tag trial will be critical to the next phase of the NGIP. While an exact date for mandatory tagging is unknown, the CNGF is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to define a mandatory program that will address the needs of goat producers. Once mandatory, all goats leaving premises of origin will be required to bear an approved tag.

In order to assist with traceback investigations and on-farm management, producers are encouraged to record the following information and keep it on-farm for at least five years:

- Animal ID number
- Date entering the premises
- Date leaving premises
- Destination of animal leaving the premises

Critical for the future

The NGIP is critical to industry sustainability and growth. In a marketplace that is concerned about traceability, food safety, and animal health, an animal ID program is essential to maintaining domestic and international markets. A national ID program for goats also supports the traceability efforts of the agriculture and food sector.



Canadian goat producers are encouraged to tag their animals with NGIP identifiers as part of the tagging trial and provide CNGF with feedback on tag performance.

Tagging Tips

The ideal tagging environment is clean and dry with good lighting.

How should tags be applied?

Proper placement of the tag is essential to prevent tag loss and other problems. Currently, goat producers have the option of tagging animals in one of two locations on the animal; either in the ear or in the tail webbing. The latter option is provided to address the concern of breeders of certain species of goats with small or very little ear tissue, and is also desirable for many dairy producers.



Ear tagging

Tags should be placed close to the head for best retention and approximately mid-point in the ear from top to bottom. The male (post) portion of the tag should be at the back of the ear and the female portion inside the ear. The tag should be placed between the two main supporting veins of the ear.



Tail tagging

For tagging animals in the tail web area it is important that the male (post) portion of the tag enter from the skin side as opposed to pushing through the hair side of the webbing. The tag should be placed mid-point of the webbing and sufficiently deep into the web and close to the body of the animal (i.e. behind the thickened 'rib' of the web).



Tagging animals as kids can result in fewer incidents of infection and provide for easier restraint of the animal and therefore better tag placement with less stress to the animal or handler and less chance of damage to the ear (or tail).