Official ID for Sheep and Goats:

Guidelines for Large Animal Practitioners in Virginia

The USDA Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Rule became effective on March 11, 2013. The new regulation primarily affects livestock moving through interstate commerce, but will require changes in the use of official identification devices for regulatory disease programs as well. Farm ID tags, animal names and any other identification that is not clearly official should not be used as the ONLY identification on regulatory forms. Brucellosis test submissions (VS Form 4-33) to VDACS Regional Animal Health Laboratories must include complete official identification numbers for each sample. Inclusion of non-official ID on regulatory forms is permitted, but at least one form of official ID must be used.

**Official identification devices used in Virginia**

- 15-digit 840-series electronic or visual tag; 900 series tags are grandfathered-in if already present.
- Microchip implant, 15-digit ISO compliant.
- Scrapie Flock Tag: issued by the USDA to producers which has the both the scrapie flock number and the individual animal number on each tag.
- Scrapie Serial Tag: issued by USDA or VDACS to veterinarians, dealers, slaughter houses and livestock markets only; does not have a flock ID on it and distribution records are required. Begins with the state postal code, but letters and numbers following can vary, e.g. VAXX 1234 or WVX 12345.
- Official Goat Registration Tattoos located on ears, tail web or flank, consisting of a herd identification number and individual animal number. When used on a CVI, the shipper’s CVI must be accompanied by Registration Papers.
- Scrapie Tattoos (Goats Only): Both herd identification number and unique individual animal number must be tattooed and recorded.

For additional information, contact the VDACS Office of Veterinary Services at (804) 786-2483.