



### **What type of animal identification will be used with sheep and goats in NAIS?**

Sheep and goat working groups have drafted proposed NAIS identification standards for these species. Currently, they suggest that sheep and goats continue to be identified as they are under the current scrapie programs. For more information on the species working group's recommendations, please visit <http://usda.gov/nais> and click on "Subcommittee and Working Groups."

### **Can I use my flock ID as my NAIS Premises Identification Number?**

No. A flock ID is assigned to a group of animals. Under NAIS, a premises is defined as a location where animals are raised, held, or boarded. The scrapie flock ID does not necessarily link those animals to a single location. Animals assigned to

one flock ID could be housed at three or four different locations.

In Washington, the scrapie database does not automatically link scrapie information with NAIS information. However, NAIS Premises Identification Numbers can be manually entered into the scrapie database to reflect a flock's location.

### ***If I have a flock ID, do I need a NAIS Premises Identification Number to receive NAIS compliant tags?***

Yes. If you want to purchase official identification tags, you need to have a NAIS Premises Identification Number. NAIS is a voluntary system and producers are not required to identify their livestock. If you would like to purchase NAIS compliant tags please visit [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais) and click on "Animal Identification."

### ***In the future, will I need to replace NSEP or SFCP eartags that are not fully compliant with NAIS standards?***

No. If you choose to participate in NAIS, you do not need to replace any scrapie eartags that are currently in your sheep or goats. You would put NAIS compliant eartags in any newly acquired goats or sheep.

*For more information on NAIS or WSAIS or to register your contact information:*

**visit** [agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal](http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal),  
**email** [wsais@agr.wa.gov](mailto:wsais@agr.wa.gov) or **call** (360) 725-5493

*For more information on Washington scrapie programs contact:*

Millie Chopic, USDA, at (360)753-9430 or  
(360) 864-6320

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*Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Contact the WSDA receptionist at (360) 902-1976 or TTY (800) 833-6388.*

# Scrapie and Animal Identification





### What is scrapie?

Scrapie is a contagious, fatal disease that affects the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Affected animals usually show behavioral changes like tremors (neck and head), rubbing, and loss of coordination. These changes may be followed by scratching and rubbing, weakness, biting of the limbs, lip smacking and weight loss without loss of appetite.

### What is the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP)?

NSEP is a mandatory program designed to eradicate scrapie. Federal and Washington State regulations require that all sheep and goats that enter into commerce including any change of ownership, attending shows and exhibits, going to sales or slaughter need to be identified for NSEP.

Sheep or goats that do **not** need to be identified for NSEP are:

- \* Sheep or goats less than 18 months of age that are moving directly to a slaughter facility or to an approved terminal feedlot.
- \* Low risk commercial goats in intrastate commerce that have not been in contact with sheep.
- \* Sheep or goats that do not enter commerce and never leave their premises of origin.

### What is the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP)?

SFCP is a voluntary program that provides producers the opportunity to enhance the marketability of their animals through origin certification in monitored flocks.

### How do I get scrapie tags?

You can order free scrapie eartags and tag applicator from USDA by calling Millie Chopic at (360) 864-6320.

### Where can I get more information about the scrapie programs?

For more information about NSEP and SFCP, please visit [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/)

*For more information on scrapie programs in Washington, please contact:*

Dr. Ben Smith,  
State Scrapie Epidemiologist,  
Washington State Department of Agriculture  
(WSDA), (509) 758-8129 or [bsmith@agr.wa.gov](mailto:bsmith@agr.wa.gov)

Millie Chopic,  
United States Department of Agriculture  
(USDA), (360) 864-6320



### If I am participating in NSEP and/ or SFCP do I need to participate in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?

No. NAIS is a voluntary system. NAIS and the scrapie programs (NSEP and SFCP) are separate and distinct programs. Participating in NAIS provides animal health officials with an additional tool during an animal health emergency. A rapid response by animal health officials decreases the economic impact to producers.

If you do not want to participate in NAIS, the Washington State Animal Identification System (WSAIS) may be another option. WSAIS is a Web based data system that stores livestock identification information such as Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, and test information at the state level. WSAIS also houses voluntary producer contact information in case of an animal health emergency. WSAIS provides you with the option of registering your contact information (premises) in the Washington's database only or in both the state and federal databases.

If you register with the state only, you will **not** receive a federal NAIS Premises Identification Number. If you register with both the state and federal systems, you **will** receive a federal NAIS Premises Identification Number.