



BEST SHEEP & GOAT TAGGING PRACTICE

- Make sure your operator is properly trained and competent in the application of ear tags.
- Use a suitable style and size of tag that is approved for the breed, size and age of the animal.
- Make sure that you are using the correct applicator for the type of tag that you are fitting. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fit the tags in cool weather (if possible) to minimise infections.
- Secure the animal's head to prevent jerking / movement during tagging.
- Apply the tags under hygienic conditions. The operator's hand, the ear, the tag and the applicator should all be clean. Disinfect as necessary using an appropriate solution.
- When fitting 2 part tags make sure that the male and female part of the tag line up correctly on the applicator and will lock together when correctly fitted.
- The tag should be placed through the ear, avoiding the main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage. Remember to allow for growth when fitting loop tags.
- Always make sure that the male part of the tag is fitted from the back of the ear. After inserting the tag the female part of the tag should always be on the inside of the ear.
- Check the ear after about 10 days for signs of damage or infection. Consult your veterinary surgeon as necessary.
- Store unused tags in a clean dry container.

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BEST CATTLE TAGGING PRACTICE

- Make sure that your operator is properly trained and competent in the application of ear tags. [Read the Health and Safety Executive's advice on the handling and housing of cattle \(Agriculture Information Sheet 35\).](#)
- Make sure that you are using the correct applicator for the type of tag you are fitting. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Fit tags in cool weather (if possible) to minimise infections.
- Secure the animal's head to prevent jerking / movement during tagging.
- Apply tags under hygienic conditions. The operator's hands, the ear, the tag and the applicator should all be clean. Disinfect as necessary using an appropriate solution.
- When fitting plastic tags make sure that the male and female part of the tag line up correctly on the applicator and will lock together when correctly fitted.
- When fitting plastic tags make sure that both the male and female part of the tag have the same number.
- In the case of plastic tags the female part of the tag should always be on the inside of the ear, this will reduce the chance of the tag snagging or catching on obstructions such as fences, gates and feeding troughs. The male part of the tag should always enter from the back of the ear.
- The tag should be placed through the ear, avoiding the main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage.
- Check the ear after about 10 days for signs of damage or infection. Consult your veterinary surgeon as necessary.
- Store unused tags in a clean dry container.

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