



MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS

April 1, 2021

Dear Sheep & Goat Exhibitors,

Hope everyone is well and excited for the upcoming 2021 Common Ground Country Fair. To make sure everyone has the correct information and tools for success, we teamed up with the Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry and the Maine State Veterinarian's office to provide a list of options and answers to your USDA Scrapie Eradication Program questions. We want to make sure everyone is in compliance so we can have a great Fair!

Sheep and goat exhibitors can comply with the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program by:

Step 1: Registering your flock with the USDA and receiving your Scrapie Flock ID

Step 2: Tagging, tattooing or chipping all your exhibit sheep and goats with your Scrapie Flock ID.

Options:

- Scrapie Ear Tag – Order official Scrapie ear tags with your Scrapie Flock ID and tag each individual.
- Tattoo with Scrapie Flock ID – Tattoo the individual's ear or tail with the state abbreviation followed by your Scrapie Flock ID to comply with requirements.
 - o For example: if your Scrapie Flock ID is HGF and the herd resides in Maine, the tattoo would be MEHGF and be followed by any additional farm management codes you use in record keeping.
- Breed Registry – Register your animals with their breed registry. Have each exhibition animal's registration papers with you and available for inspection. The registration papers must match the individual's breed registry tag or tattoo to confirm identity and be compliant.
- Microchip – Program each microchip to have the state abbreviation followed by Scrapie Flock ID to comply. You must bring your chip reader to the exhibition and have it available for officials to use during inspection.

Step 3: Bringing supporting paperwork and/or equipment as determined by your identification method above to the exhibition and have available for officials.

All sheep and goats exhibited at agricultural fairs are required to have a Scrapie Flock ID. Please explore the options above and pick the best method for you. If you have questions, please contact the Fair Office 207-568-4142 or commonground@mofga.org.

Sincerely,

April Boucher
Fair Director

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Common Questions about the Scrapie Tagging Rules

How do I get scrapie tags?

You can obtain tags and a tagger by calling the USDA office in MA: 508-363-2290, and ask (or leave a message) for Gail, requesting scrapie tags.

Can I get scrapie tags from somewhere else?

There are other suppliers like Allflex, Premier, and Hasco. They all charge varying prices for their tags and taggers, and the taggers are not interchangeable.

I am not a part of the scrapie free program; do I have to use scrapie tags?

YES, all sheep and goats in the US are a part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. This is a mandatory program that began in 2001. This program requires sheep and goats to be officially identified before leaving the owner's property, even if just for a brief show or exhibition. There are very few exceptions to this requirement.

Can I opt out of the Nation Scrapie Eradication Program?

No, all sheep and goats in the US are required by law to be a part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program.

What is the difference between scrapie tags and normal animal ID tags?

All official scrapie tags must have the US route shield on them. Normal ID tags you can buy will not have this shield on them.

Can my friend and I share scrapie tags?

No, each tag is registered to a single flock and owner. This helps us track down the owners of an animal if there is a problem with scrapie down the road.

Which of my sheep or goats need a scrapie tag?

In general, most all sheep and goats in Maine need a scrapie tag. There is a flow chart attached to this document that can help you decide if any of your animals fall under the exceptions to needing a tag. I recommend that if you are in doubt, tag them.

If you have more questions about Scrapie tagging or any other animal ID rules, ask your veterinarian or feel free to contact me, or other Maine Animal Health staff at any time.

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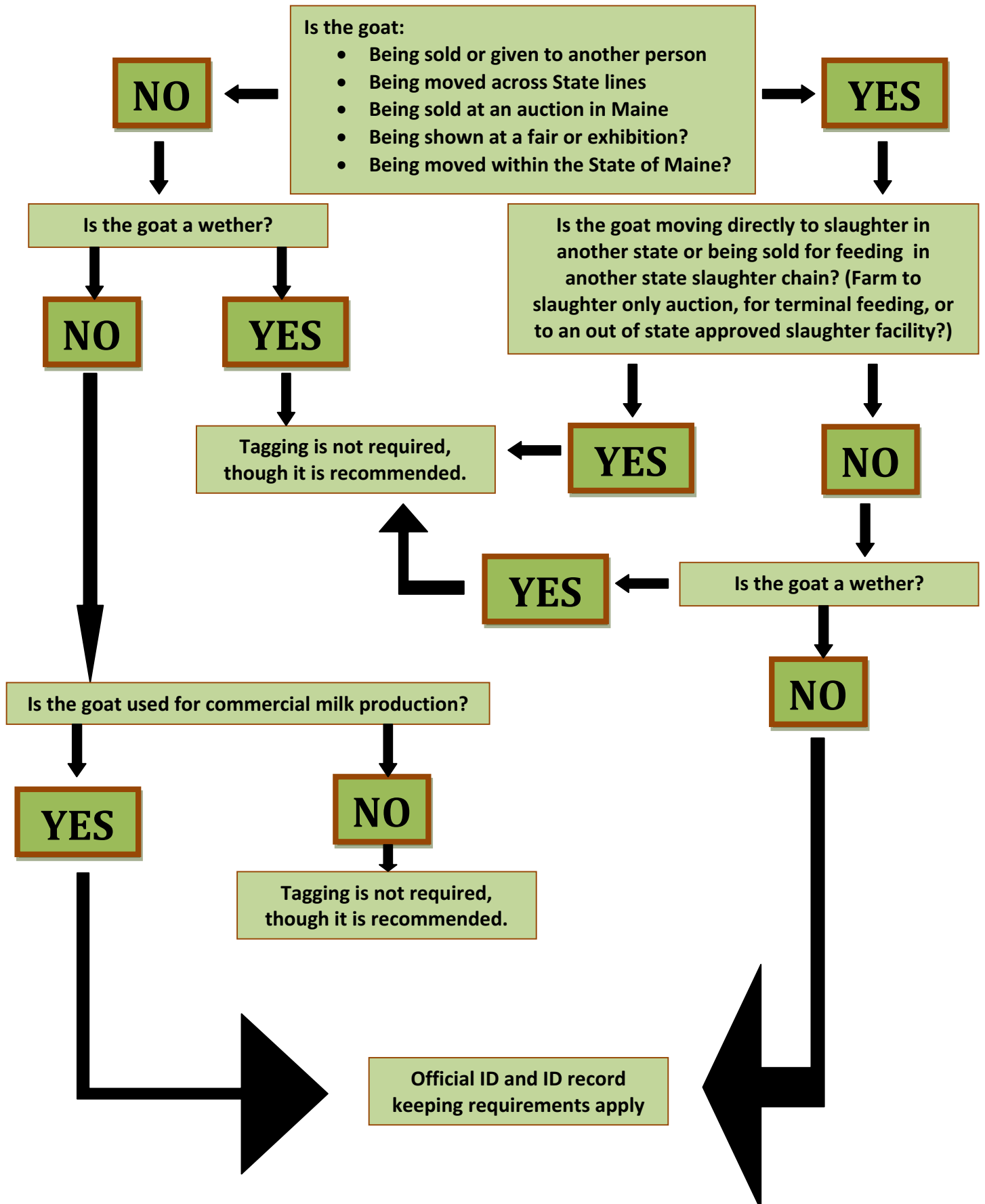
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Combined Maine and Federal Scrapie Tagging Requirements for Goats



Combined Maine and Federal Scrapie Tagging Requirements for Sheep

