



## EAR TAGGING

### SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EAR TAGGING OF SHEEP

- All lambs which are to be registered **MUST** be tagged with the WHSS tag
- The WHSS tag should be inserted as soon after birth as possible
- The WHSS information **MUST** be independent of any DEFRA tag information
- Use either a separate one-piece loop tag or a two-part tag. If the latter, **ALL** the WHSS information must be on one part of the tag with the DEFRA individual number and flock number on the other
- If members choose not to combine the Society and DEFRA tags, the WHSS tag **MUST** be printed and not handwritten
- The Society has no preferred ear tag supplier but advises members to discuss suitable designs of ear tags with suppliers and take guidance on their application

For the WHSS to recognise the pedigree of any sheep it **MUST** carry a WHSS tag, displaying:

- **WHSS flock number of the breeder - e.g. 123**
- **An individual consecutive number**
- **The year of birth - e.g. 15 for 2015**

WHSS tags would read 123 01 15, 123 02 15, 123 03 15, etc.

Members must comply with both the Society and DEFRA requirements at all times.

Further guidance may be found in the Society Bylaws which are available as downloads from the website or from the Secretary.

### DEFRA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF BREEDING SHEEP

DEFRA regulations state that all sheep born after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and not intended for slaughter within 12 months of age, including all breeding sheep, must have two identifiers or ear tags containing a flock number (e.g. UK0123456) and an identical individual number. One ear tag must be electronic, coloured yellow and ideally put in the left ear, while the other should be non-electronic, any colour other than yellow, black or red and put in the opposite ear. Electronic tags will be printed with the same number that is carried by the electronic chip.

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 all sheep born before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 which are not electronically identified must be retagged with an EID ear tag and match up tag, as described above, when being moved from their holding unless direct to slaughter.

Further guidance may be found on the GOV.UK website:-

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/keeping-farmed-animals/sheep-identity-registration>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-identify-your-animals>