

Ear Tag FAQ's

- Custom imprinting
- Ear tag replacement
- Reducing infection and tag losses
- Effective managements tools

Does Premier custom print ear tags?

We will custom print with your choice of numbers, farm/ranch name, brands and/or logos. Repeating farm/ranch names are free. Brands & logos have a one-time \$15 setup fee.

How long does it take for Premier to custom imprint and ship tags to me?

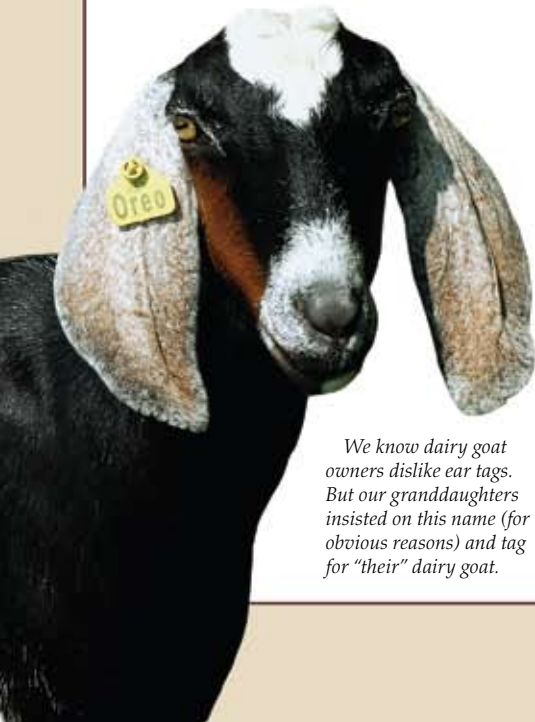
Usually 2 working days (3 days in the spring). We normally ship via UPS or US mail...taking 1 – 8 days to reach you.

Can/do we print numbers out of sequence—or individual names?

We can do unique numbers and names (see photo below). But it takes much more machine time per tag so the cost per tag is much higher (\$2.00).

How does Premier tag our sheep and goats?

We insert a Snapp tag and a 2Xte tag with identical numbers in our lambs and kids. The Snapp tag indicates triplet, twin, single (by color). The 2Xte tag indicates male or female by left vs. right ear. Black tags indicate an animal to be culled.



We know dairy goat owners dislike ear tags. But our granddaughters insisted on this name (for obvious reasons) and tag for "their" dairy goat.

What about removing ear tags? When and why? What is the best way?

We cut out ear tags when serious infection occurs. To reduce confusion, we also remove all non-official ear tags when we sell animals.

We use our serrated foot trimmer.



Restrain the head, hold the ear as shown, slide the trimmers in place and the rest is simple.



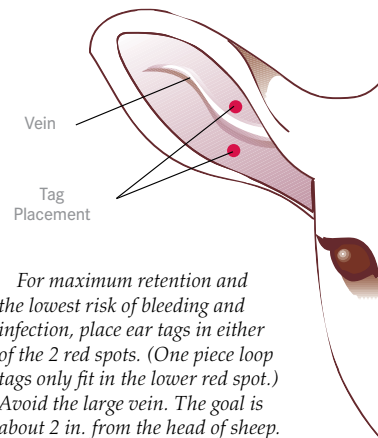
Serrated teeth make cutting tags surgically precise.



The final result. Just as well that tags don't cost much.

Why and when to use a hole punch?

Some shepherds punch a hole in each ear within 3 days of birth. Inserting tags in a clean hole is less likely to cause infection. Be sure to disinfect the pliers between animals!



For maximum retention and the lowest risk of bleeding and infection, place ear tags in either of the 2 red spots. (One piece loop tags only fit in the lower red spot.) Avoid the large vein. The goal is about 2 in. from the head of sheep.

How can I reduce infection?

- Tag animals that are less than a week old.
- Tag when the ear is dry and clean.
- Use small tags (to reduce weight on ear).
- Apply Superlube (at right) lubricating antiseptic to tip of the male and opening of the female tag just before insertion.
- Don't use metal or button tags. (Both prevent air from reaching the wound.)
- Tag when humidity is lowest. (Infection is worse in humid, dirty conditions.)

Female or male inside of the ear?

We advise putting the female on the inside. Why? Because it is bulky...and having it on the inside means that it's out the way of hay stems, woven wire, etc. Therefore the ear tissue has less stress and the tag is less likely to snag and be torn out.

But we know that it's easier to place the tag precisely between the veins if the male is left on the inside.

How can I reduce tag losses?

- Insert the tag 1 – 2" from the skull (see diagram above) where the ear tissue is thicker and is more difficult to tear. Also tags placed close to the head rarely snag in wire, brush, hay or grass.
- Avoid the large veins in the ear. If damaged, they heal slowly and can become infected.
- Place the female on inside of the ear.
- Avoid double button tags for sheep/goats.
- Avoid low-fiber diets. Lambs on high grain and/or liquid diets crave to chew on anything—including each other's tags.

How do I keep "track" of an animal if a tag falls out?

1. Put a tag in each ear with the same number.
2. Tattoo the animal. Nothing is more permanent.

Ear Tags can be vital management aids...

Since tagging is now part of all stock owners pattern, it's wise to get the most benefit possible from the time and effort required to install tags. Here are a few ways to use ear tags to enable better flock and herd management.

To help you with tagging Superlube™

Lubricating antiseptic that:

1. Makes tag insertion much easier (requires much less hand strength to press male into the female).
2. Reduces infection risk. Antiseptic in gel reduces ability of microbes from surface of ear tissue to cause infection in the "wound".

Apply to the tag just before insertion (in the barn or pen). To use squeeze 3 – 4 drops onto your finger & wipe your finger across the round opening of the female & around the point of the male.

550800	8 oz, 0.8 lb	\$3.20
550810	16 oz, 1.5 lb	5.85
550820	1/2 gal, 4.5 lb	17.00



Applying Superlube to the male tip just before insertion. Three sizes now available.



Fine Tip Marking Pen for Tags

For handwriting numbers and letters on blank tags.

You can use the marking pen on X Tags, MiniTags or Button tags.

You cannot use the marking pen on Swivel, Snapp and Leader tags.

619500	0.1 lb	\$6.50
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Use tags to indicate sire

- a. By color of Tag (e.g all blue tags = Sire XYZ); all purple tags= Sire ABC.)
- b. By actual sire name printed onto the tag of its progeny. (We do this for no extra cost.)

For security confirm both of the above with a identical second tag (see below for double tagging option).



Use tags to tell year of birth

- a. Use a different color for each year (e.g yellow tag = 2006, green tag = 2007). You can age them from 30 ft away.
- b. Begin the number series with the year of birth (e.g. tag 6067= 67th tagged in 2006, tag 7005 = 5th animal tagged in 2007.
- c. Combine a. and b. (For those like me that forget the color/yr. match.)



Two tags...why and how

- a. As back-up tag with identical color and/or number. If a tag is lost, the animal "isn't" Can replicate official tag without USA seal.
- b. Use second tag to indicate sire, sex, year of birth or type (single, twin, triplet). Beware that good records are essential if tags with non-identical tag numbers are used.

An extra tag is cheap (less than 40¢)!



Use tag location to indicate sex

To do this:

All males—primary tag in right ear.

All females—primary tag in left ear.

Allows rapid sorting by sex while they're moving down a chute. No more need to laboriously "check the plumbing".