

## Why folks like our tags

### 1. Very fast printing— it's who we are!

Custom tag orders often leave our door within **2 days**, while our competitors' turnaround time is often **2 weeks or longer**.



### 2. Customized—imprinted or blank for the same price.

#### A. Select any Premier tags.

As a general rule, light colors imprint the best. Dark colors are the least readable—*see far right*.

#### B. Decide what to imprint.

- **Consecutive numbers**  
With or without repeating farm/ranch names.
- **Logos/brands**  
\$15 setup fee per design.
- **Single names or numbers**  
The cost is \$2.50 per tag.

#### C. Decide imprint location.

Print on the male side (has the pin), female side (has the receptacle) or print on both sides.



### 3. No minimum purchase requirement!

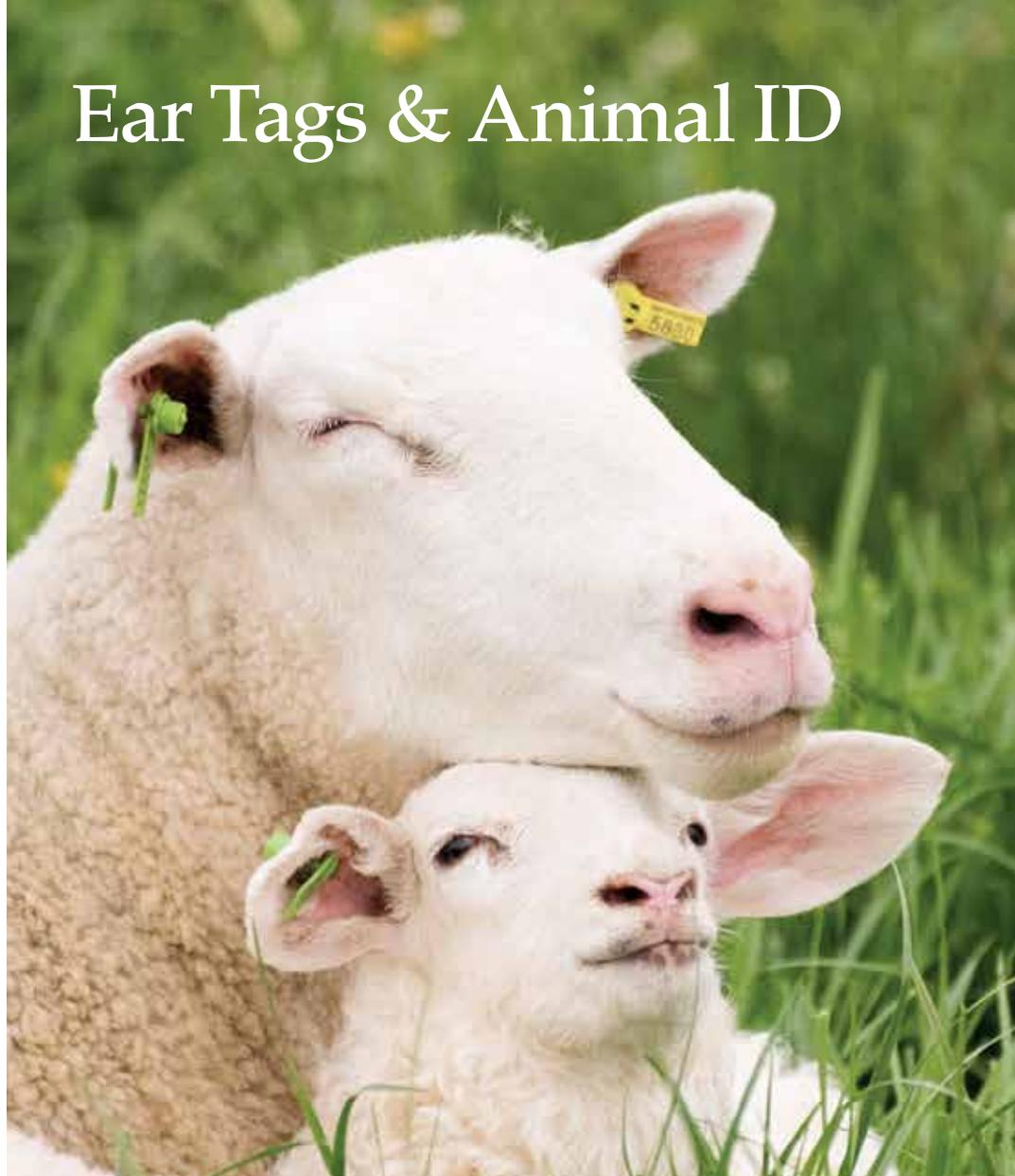
We'll even imprint individual replacement tags (\$2.50 per tag).

### 4. Low prices

For some sizes our tags cost only **half as much as similar tags from others**. How are we able to do this?

Most tag sales occur during Premier's "slow" months—so we price the tags accordingly because our staff has more time then. It's a win for us and for you.

# Ear Tags & Animal ID

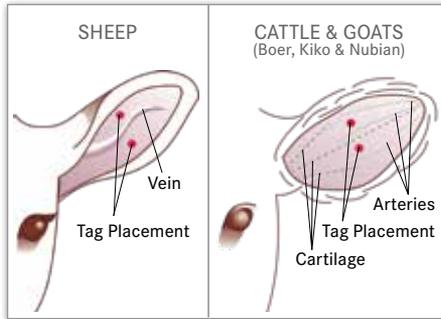


## Tag Comparison Chart

Tag name	Size	*Imprint each	# per pkg	# of colors	Scrapie approved	Imprint area	Applicator
Temple Tags	0.375" x 1.25"	51¢	50	7	no	pre-numbered	Ear Punch
Qwik Tag	1.5" x 0.38"	32.5¢	20	8	no	13 characters/ 1 line	Qwik Tag
Q-flex 1.2	1.625" x 0.44"	50¢	20	14	no		Q-flex/Pro
MiniTags	1.1" x 1.1"	60¢	20	6	yes	9 characters/ 2 lines	MiniTag/Pro
Q-flex 1.5	1.88" x 0.56"	60¢	20	14	yes	13 characters/ 2 lines	Q-flex/Pro
Q-flex 3	1.63" x 1.5"	80¢	20	14	yes	13 characters/ 3 lines	Q-flex/Pro
Q-flex 5	1.63" x 1.88"	90¢	20	14	yes		Q-flex/Pro
7X Tag	2.2" x 2.9" (female) 2.2" x 2.5" (male)	\$1.05	20	7	yes		X Tag/Pro
One-Piece Calf	2.5" x 3.25"	\$1.08	25	8	no	15 characters/ 3 lines	Z Tag
Long Neck Calf	2.5" x 3.75"	\$1.16	25	8	no		Z Tag
One-Piece Cow	3" x 4.5"	\$1.40	25	8	no		Z Tag

\*Price per tag if purchased as a package. Call Premier for individual replacement tags.

## To avoid ear tag loss



- 1. Don't place tags close to the skull. Doing so will increase both infection and losses. Why?**
  - The tissue may become too thick for the space between male and female tag parts.
  - The wound is less able to heal (not enough air). Try to insert tags midway between the skull and the outer end of the ear. *Note: One-piece loop tags for sheep/goats only fit in the lower red spot (diagram above).*
- 2. Avoid the large veins in the ear (see diagram above) Why?** Tissue around damaged veins heals slowly—so it's prone to infection.
- 3. Don't use cheap tags as long-term tags. Why?** They're often made of inferior plastic that may become brittle from UV light.
- 4. Avoid double-button round tags. Why?** They're more likely to snag and rip free on vines, fences and feeders.
- 5. Avoid low-fiber diets. Why?** Sheep on these diets are desperate to chew on anything. When one lamb starts chewing tags, its pen-mates will copy the behavior.
- 6. How do I keep track of an animal if a tag falls out?**
  - Install 2 tags (one per ear)—with the same number. Official tags can't be duplicated—but you can use the same individual animal number on the second tag *if you don't add a flock or premise number.*
  - Tattoo the animal. No animal ID is more permanent.



Watch Online  
**EAR TAG AND ID VIDEOS**  
[premier1supplies.com/videos](https://premier1supplies.com/videos)

## How ear tags can help you

### 1. To indicate sex

**Benefits:** Allows rapid sorting by sex while sheep and goats are in a chute or holding pen. No need to spend valuable time checking the plumbing.

**To do this:**

- Males: Insert the primary tag in left ear.
- Females: Insert the primary tag in right ear.

### 2. To indicate year of birth

**Benefit:** No need to catch them to check teeth. A tag can tell you the age from 25 ft away. Faster decisions when sorting for breeding or culling.

**Two ways to do this (we do both):**

- Use a different color each year.
- Begin tag series with the year of birth. Example—tag 18275 indicates lamb is the 275th lamb tagged in 2018.

### 3. To indicate sire (and dam)

**Benefit:** No need to check records.

**Three ways to do this:**

- Use a different color second tag for each sire (blue tags = Sire XYZ; purple tags = Sire ABC).
- Have sire name printed on the tag. Apply those tags to its progeny.
- Handwrite the ewe's tag number with a marking pen (*p. 11*) on the lamb's tag. If space is limited, write it on the inner surfaces of the tag.

*Note: Tags can be lost, use 2 sire/dam tags (one in each ear).*

### 4. To indicate problems

**Benefit:** Allows rapid, positive culling of animals with foot problems, dystocia, mastitis, prolapse, etc.

**Two ways to do this:**

- Put a tag that says "cull" into problem animals.
- Use an ear notcher to mark the animal.

### 5. To indicate single, twin or triplet

**Benefit:** Speeds up sorting process for breeding and sale purposes. Reduces need to consult records.

**To do this:**

Use a different color for each lamb type. Repeat these colors every year.

**Premier's code is:**

- blue = single
- green = twin
- orange = triplet

Same as our plan when marking with Sprayline.

## Tag Cost Comparison

Sheep Tags	Cost per pkg 20	Imprinting per tag	Imprint Logo	Time to ship
Premier	\$16.00	FREE	\$15	2 days
Destron Fearing	\$21.49	.15¢	\$31	2 weeks
Allflex	\$19.75	.15¢	\$31	2 weeks
Ketchum	\$20.50	.13¢	n/a	2-3 weeks



# Infections from tagging sheep

## Causes, Factors & Solutions



A good result.



An infected ear.



And another.

***We apologize if the above photos are disturbing. However, they are real. By showing them we hope to encourage shepherds to reduce the risk of infection.***

### **Q. How can I reduce the risk of infected ears from tagging?**

- A.**
1. Tag them as lambs or kids.
  2. Don't insert tags in fly season.
  3. If you live in a humid climate, tag in the winter.
  4. Don't place tags close to the skull.
  5. Tag when the ear is dry and clean.
  6. Use smaller tags.
  7. Avoid metal or round tags.
  8. Apply an antibiotic, a fly repellent and/or a disinfectant to the ear tissue or tag (*Options 1-3 below*).

### **Q. The risk—how serious is it?**

- A.** Can be very serious. If not caught quickly it can disfigure a sheep for life. May force it to be culled early.

### **Q. Have we had tag infections?**

- A.** Mild infections the week after tagging are more common than most think. You have to look closely to see it. It usually heals on its own. However, serious infections have occurred here in 2 instances:
- a. July 2003, after inserting 5 brands of RFID tags in adult sheep.
  - b. In 2008, during a trial with 2 different tags inserted in 400 adults and feeder lambs in a humid May and June. Lambs were minimally affected. Adults were badly affected. Both groups were on grass.

*Common factors: Adult sheep and SE Iowa's summer heat and humidity.*

### **Q. How often does it occur?**

- A.** Seldom in dry areas and seasons. Too often in humid months.

### **Q. Does the brand of tag matter?**

- A.** Not if the tag design is similar. At a major sheep show we observed mild infection with most tag brands.

### **Q. Does tag type (metal vs round vs leaf/flag-shaped) matter?**

- A.** All things being equal (but they rarely are), designs that allow more air near the wound will produce less infection. That's why we avoid round and metal tags when it's possible to do so.

## Solutions



### Option 1

*Our preferred solution. We use a Chloradine™ dilution in a spray bottle for the antiseptic and follow with fly repellent, Catron® IV.*



*Note: Iodine and Pine Tar leave a dark stain on tags.*

### Option 2

*Spray a mixture of Triodine-7 and Pine Tar between the tag and ear to repel flies and disinfect the wound.*



### Option 3

*Apply SuperLube™ antibiotic gel to the tag before insertion. It contains chlorhexidine—which acts by killing many of the microorganisms present.*