

Ear Tags & Animal ID

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 just for you— 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 tags 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 the imprint location.

Male side. Female side. Or both.



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 (for sales)—so we price tags low because our staff has more time during that season. It's a win for Premier and for you.



Tag Comparison Chart

Tag name	Size	*Imprint each	# per pkg	# of colors	Scrapie approved	Imprint area	Applicator
Qwik Tag	1.5" x 0.38"	31¢	20	9	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	15 characters/ 3 lines	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
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
One-Piece Calf	2.5" x 3.25"	\$1.08	25	8	no		Z Tag

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

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.



Option 2

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

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



Option 3

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