

EXTRA TOOLS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF RFID TRACKING TECHNOLOGY



Tag reader must be compatible with tags & gather needed data



Electronic weigh scale should be compatible with your software and management system



Software varies. Make sure it suits your needs & offers user support.

Electronic tagging and analysis of animals from birth gives you accurate, up-to-date information on your flock that can help improve efficiencies and profits. To maximize benefits, you'll need an electronic tag reader, a gate system with an electronic scale, tracking software and a computer to track:



- number of lambs weaned
- body weights
- body condition scores
- treatment withdrawal times, etc.

...to make it easier to identify the best ewes to breed.



Electronic systems eliminate human error when you're reading tags and they eliminate guesswork when you're making decisions about your flock, groups of animals or individual animals.

Don't buy equipment or software in haste.

Read the literature, ask questions, check with other producers, then choose what will suit you best.

For "Top Performing" equipment in the Alberta Lamb Traceability Pilot, see www.sheepcentral.ca

TIPS FOR TAGGING

Hygiene: You're about to pierce the ear, so avoiding infection is important. Tags, tagger and your hands must be clean and dry—as must the animal's ear. (This is a big advantage of tagging lambs within their first week: their ears are naturally clean.)

- Store tags and tagger in a waterproof container with tight-fitting lid (not an open bucket that dirt and flies can get into, or open on a shelf in the barn where they can get knocked over).
- Don't let tags freeze or they will get brittle and break and/or be hard to handle.
- If tags and/or tagger are dirty, clean them with a disinfectant.
- Clean dirty ears with rubbing alcohol on absorbent cotton. Don't use soap and water unless you plan to tag animals the next day. Don't tag animals that are damp. The risk of infection is too high.



Restraining animals: Lambs: hold under one arm or between knees. Ewes: If you don't have a chute to help hold them still, straddle them or tip them up as if you were going to shear them.

View detailed how-to videos online at www.cansheep.ca or call 1-888-684-7739.



This project was made possible by funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through its Canadian Industry Traceability Infrastructure Program (CITIP). AAFC is pleased to participate in this project and is committed to working with its industry partners to increase public awareness of the importance of the agri-food industry to Canada.



RFID TAGGING: THE ESSENTIALS



Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP)



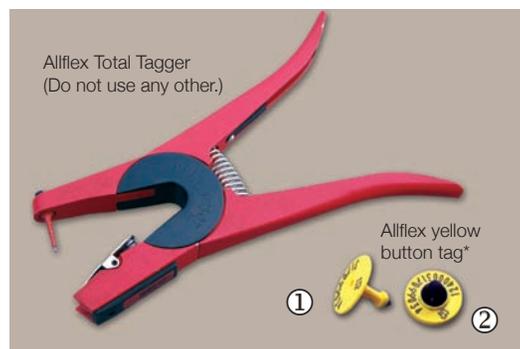
RFID TAGGING: THE ESSENTIALS

The following are the only Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags (and matching taggers) currently approved for use in the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP):

Shearwell Yellow Data SET Tags & Tagger



Allflex Yellow Button Tags & Tagger



- ① Male end with prong goes through the back of the ear.
- ② Female end with RFID chip inside goes at the front of the ear.

* Additional styles may become available. If so, check www.cansheep.ca to make sure they are CSIP-approved.

TAGGING WITH SHEARWELL*

STEP 1: Load the tagger

Place the tag over the tagger's mouth and pull it into position so the square end and the round end nest neatly in the tagger.



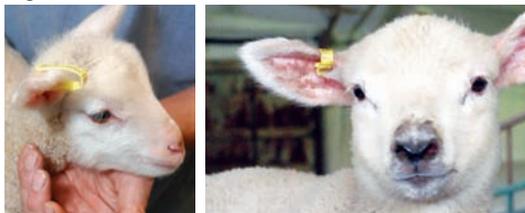
STEP 2: Check the ends' alignment



Make sure the two ends of the tag line up properly by squeezing the tagger halfway. You should hear a click. If the loop is firmly in position and the two ends line up, you're ready to begin.

STEP 3: Position the tag properly

Place the tag 1/3 of the way along the ear away from the head, between the two main veins, male end in back, female in front. It is recommended to tag the RIGHT ear.



*These steps are a summary. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

TAGGING WITH ALLFLEX*

STEP 1: Insert male half and squeeze

Place the male half of the button tag over the pin in the tagger and squeeze the tagger firmly to make sure the male part is in place.



STEP 2: Insert female half and squeeze

Slide the female half under the clamp, well back in the notch. Squeeze tagger gently to ensure the halves line up.



STEP 3: Position the tag properly



Place the tag 1/3 of the way along the ear away from the head, allowing room for the lamb's head to grow. The male part pierces the back of the ear. The female part faces front. It is recommended to tag the RIGHT ear.

