

## Animal Disease Traceability Laws and the NPGA

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Any animal moving off of the farm either for sale or for show must be Scrapie compliant per USDA/APHIS standards. There was a rule change made in March of 2019 by the USDA/APHIS which requires animals with microchips to be also tattooed with the location of the microchip. The following requirements must be met in order for a microchip (EID) to be used as official identification:

- Implants must be located between the skin and the cartilage of the back side of the ear near the base or between the skin and the bone of tail near the base of the tail. The withers/shoulders have NEVER been an official location even though a lot of us have used this location.
- The animal must be tattooed with a legible “E” if the implant is at the base of the ear, or an “ET” if the implant is at the base of the tail.
- The animal must be accompanied by an implant reader.
- The implant number must be an Animal Identification Number (840-style) issued to the flock of origin.
- Registered animals must be accompanied by a registration certificate in the name of the current owner where the implant number has been recorded on the certificate.

As mentioned above, an animal microchipped in the withers is NOT officially identified (and never has been) even though they have an official device. In order to achieve compliance, these animals either need to be re-microchipped in an official location or be tattooed with breed registration tattoo. If the animal is being microchipped a second time you will need to send in the change to the NPGA office. The official identification number will need to be in the microchip location on the registration papers. The second number will be placed on the back of the registration papers and can still be used for the recording of wins at a show. Animals who were microchipped prior to March of 2019 will need to be tattooed with the “E” or “ET” as well in order to be compliant. If you choose to tattoo animals with the breed registration tattoos, you don’t need to use these to record wins at a show. The microchip numbers can still be used as they have been in the past.

It is recommended by the NPGA that the “E” or “ET” tattoo to be placed in the right ear and just above the registry tattoo if that is present. This is a NPGA recommendation and is NOT part of the federal rule. If you have already tattooed animals in a different location you are still compliant.

If you have any questions, they may be directed to me through your regional directors.

Read more at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie>.

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/nsep-program-standards-final-rule.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/nsep-program-standards-final-rule.pdf) page 55 has the specifics about the E/ET tattoo requirements.

Previous NAIS reports on the NPGA website at:

<https://npga-pygmy.com/services/NAIS/default.asp>