

# EAR TAGGING BEST PRACTICE

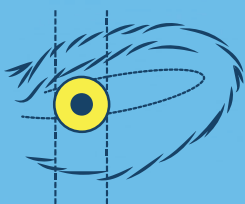
**IMPORTANT - Improve ear tag retention rates by following a few simple guidelines.**

- Ensure the operator is fully trained in applying ear tags correctly. Read the Health & Safety Executive's advice, Agriculture Information Sheet 35 at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais35.pdf>
- Ensure the correct applicator is selected for the model of tag and that the operator has fully read and understood the specific tag applicator instructions.
- Tag in cool weather (where possible) to minimise infections, ensuring the tags are applied under hygienic conditions. The operator's hands, the ear, the tag and applicator should be clean. Disinfect as necessary.
- Restrain the animals head to prevent jerking whilst tagging.
- Ensure the male and female parts of the tag are sitting correctly in the applicator and that they will lock together when correctly fitted.
- In the case of two piece plastic tags, ensure that both parts of the tag have the same number.
- The female part of the tag should always be applied on the inside of the ear; this will reduce the chance of the tag snagging or catching on obstructions. The male should always enter the back of the ear and be placed as centrally as possible between the veins of the ear.
- If possible allow the animal to settle before applying, and then squeeze handles together ensuring both parts lock together.
- Check the ear 10 days after tagging for signs of damage or infection. Consult your veterinary surgeon as necessary.
- Store unused tags in a clean dry container away from extremes in temperature and humidity.

## IMPORTANT

Please note: When tagging young livestock; allow room for ear growth. Hygiene is important to avoid infections. Keep tags as clean as possible and dip the jaws of the applicator, with the tag installed, into diluted disinfectant before application.

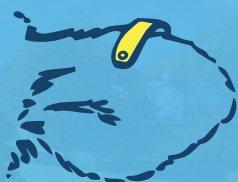
The illustrations below show recommended location of tags in the ear. For better retention **ALWAYS** put female part of tag inside the ear.



**TWO PIECE PLASTIC  
CATTLE/PIG TAG**



**METAL  
CATTLE/PIG TAG**



**SHEEP/GOAT  
LOOP TAG**



**TWO PIECE PLASTIC  
SHEEP/GOAT TAG**

To provide feedback on ear tags please use the Government Ear Tag Feedback forms, available online at the following web addresses:

### **SHEEP:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eartag-feedback-form-for-sheep-and-goat-keepers>

### **CATTLE:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-new-or-replacement-official-ear-tags-for-cattle>