



## EAR TAGGING

**NEW DEFRA REQUIREMENTS CAME INTO FORCE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2010**

### DEFRA Requirements for Electronic Identification of Breeding Sheep

The new DEFRA regulations state that all sheep born after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and not intended for slaughter within 12 months of age, including all breeding sheep, must have two identifiers or ear tags containing a flock number (e.g. UK0123456 – your previous flock number with the addition of a leading zero) and an identical individual number. One ear tag must be electronic, coloured yellow and ideally put in the left ear, while the other should be non-electronic, any colour other than yellow, black or red and put in the opposite ear. Electronic tags will be printed with the same number that is carried by the electronic chip.

Concessions are available for sheep intended for slaughter within 12 months of age but members are strongly advised to consult their usual outlet, e.g. market or abattoir, before adopting these concessions. Details of rules covering all sheep may be found in the DEFRA booklet PB13327 published in Dec 2009 or the Eblex “Farmers Guide to EID” available to download from the WHSS website, from the WHSS Secretary or direct from Eblex itself. Refer to the DEFRA website [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) or the telephone helpline 08459 33 55 77 for additional guidance and verification.

### The Society's Requirements

For the WHSS to recognise the pedigree of any sheep it **MUST** carry a WHSS tag, displaying:

- ☐ **WHSS flock number of the breeder - e.g. 123**
- ☐ An individual consecutive number
- ☐ **The year of birth - e.g. 10 for 2010**

WHSS tags would read 123 01 10, 123 02 10, 123 03 10, etc.

Members must comply with both the Society and DEFRA requirements at all times.

- ☐ All lambs which are to be registered **MUST** be tagged with the WHSS tag
- ☐ The WHSS tag should be inserted as soon after birth as possible
- ☐ The WHSS information **MUST** be independent of any DEFRA tag information
- ☐ Use either a separate one-piece loop tag or a two-part tag. If the latter, **ALL** the WHSS information must be on one part of the tag with the DEFRA individual number and flock number on the other
- ☐ If members choose not to combine the Society and DEFRA tags, the WHSS tag **MUST** be printed and not handwritten
- ☐ The Society has no preferred ear tag supplier but advises members to discuss suitable designs of ear tags with suppliers and take guidance on their application
- ☐ Ram lambs entered in the flock book are to be named starting with the letter A in the first year of membership, B in the second and so forth. Names are to be preceded with the flock name e.g. Ham Arthur

Further guidance may be found in the Society Bylaws which are available as downloads from the website or from the Secretary