

Applying SET Tags in Canadian Sheep

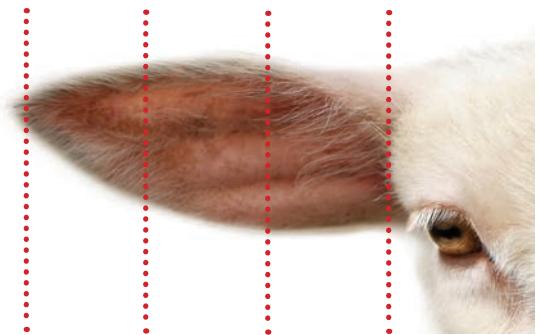
Shearwell
Canada

Animal Identification
& Management Systems



Using the correct tagging procedure will improve animal welfare and help reduce tag losses. Avoid tagging in hot weather and when fly strike is possible. Tagging at birth is recommended. See back page for important information about storing your new SET tags.

- Pull one tag from the strip of tags. Disinfect the tag.
- Load the tag into the applicator, making sure each end clicks into place.



1. Hold the sheep securely.
2. Position the tag on the upper edge of the right ear close to the head (about a third of the way from the base of the ear).

Note: Older sheep with very thick, tough ears can be tagged on the bottom of the ear where the skin is thinner. Note that tags in the bottom of the ear are more prone to damage from feeders and fences.



3. The spike of the tag should go in from the top of the ear. The number and maple leaf should be on the top of the ear, and the microchip should be on the inside of the ear.
4. Avoid piercing the cartilage 'ribs' of the ear, which can deform the ear or result in infection.
5. Leave room for the ear to grow when tagging lambs. If a tag is placed too tight and deforms the ear, then cut the tag at the bend to prevent infection and allow the ear to grow. A SET tag split at the 'hinge' will not fall out!



IMPORTANT!

If a tag breaks or bends as it is applied - STOP!

Do not apply any more tags until the problem is resolved!

See next page for trouble-shooting ideas...

Important storage information for SET tags



Why are storage conditions so important for tags?

Canada is a country with extremes of temperature and humidity. Summers can be hot and humid, or hot and dry; winters can be damp and cold, or else so cold that the air is very dry! That's why it's so important to keep your new tags stored in a sealed container if they are not being applied immediately.

Plastic can be affected by humidity in the air. If tags are kept in dry conditions for long periods of time then the plastic can dry out and become brittle.

Tags kept in high moisture conditions for a long time can absorb extra moisture and become too soft and difficult to apply. Changes to the plastic don't happen over-night, but tags that are left out for months can be affected.

A SET tag is completely weather-proof once it is in the ear - it is not affected by moisture, heat, cold or humidity!

How should I store my tags?

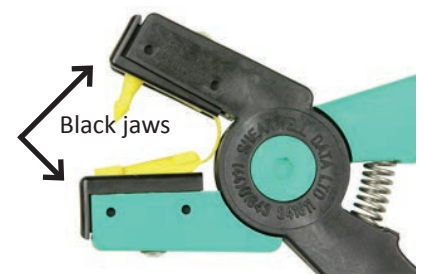
- In their original zipper-lock bag, with the top sealed.
- Inside a plastic food container with a tight-fitting lid, kept closed.
- Out of direct sun.
- In a warm, dry place. If the room is comfortable for humans, it's comfortable for tags.



Trouble-shooting

Tags breaking

1. Wrong applicator? Your applicator should have black jaw inserts that hold the tag in place. If you have an old applicator with green jaw inserts then you must change to new black jaws. Call your tag supplier for replacement jaws or go to www.shearwell.ca for instructions. **Older version ESET tag applicators should be replaced with the newer version ASET tag applicators to avoid any potential tag application problems ie tags cracking etc.**
2. Dry tags? Tags kept in dry conditions can become brittle. To restore dry tags, soak them in hot water for five minutes before you apply them. Unused tags should be sealed in a food container with a tight-fitting lid so they stay in good condition.



Spike bending

1. Tags that bend at the spike as they are applied have become soft from high humidity. To restore soft tags, lay them out on a baking sheet in a warm oven (70C) for an hour before you apply them. Unused tags should be sealed in a food container with a tight-fitting lid so they stay in good condition.

For more information about SET tags go to www.shearwell.ca