

# SHEEP AND GOATS



## PROCESS OF BUYING AND SELLING LIVESTOCK

### Steps to take when buying and selling or moving sheep and goats

Responsible livestock ownership, regardless of the number of livestock, requires the following steps be undertaken to meet state and national regulation and legislation.

These steps are critical to ensure quick and accurate animal identification and traceability, and to ultimately maintain and protect the country's disease-free status which underpins the South Australian livestock industry's reputation.

### STEP 1 – OBTAIN PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC)

All properties that have livestock must have a Property Identification Code (PIC).

**You can register your PIC with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the PIRSA website.**

### STEP 2 – GET ACCREDITED WITH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The Livestock Production Assurance Program (LPA) is the on-farm assurance program that underpins market access for Australian red meat.

You need to be accredited with LPA to access your National Vendor Declaration (NVD) which is necessary when moving livestock off your property. LPA and NVDs provide evidence of your livestock history and on-farm practices when transferring livestock through the value chain.

**Producers who participate should be committed to carrying out on-farm practices to support the integrity system.**

**Register and learn more on the ISC website.**

There are seven program requirements of the LPA program. They are:

1. Property risk assessment
2. Safe and responsible animal treatments
3. Stock foods, fodder, crops, grain and pasture treatments
4. Preparation for dispatch of livestock
5. Livestock transactions and movements
6. Biosecurity
7. Animal welfare.

### STEP 3 – NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM DEVICES AND TAGS

Before selling any stock, each animal must have a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tag. NLIS ear tags are electronic tags that identify and trace an animal's movements throughout its lifetime. The NLIS tag will be linked to your PIC on the database when an animal is on your property.

Livestock without an ear tag must be tagged with a tag displaying your PIC. This excludes feral goats going direct to an abattoir or an approved goat depot.

NLIS tagging requirements do not apply to rangeland goats that are going direct to slaughter within 6 weeks of capture.

There are two types of NLIS tags.

1. Breeder tags are used to identify sheep and goats that remain on their property of birth. They can be any colour except pink.

It is recommended and most common that the coloured tags used are related to the year the animal was born.

2. Post breeder tags must be pink. These tags are used for sheep or goats that have moved from their property of birth and have lost their original tag, or in the instance that it is not practical to record the original PIC on the tag.

It is illegal to remove an NLIS tag.

## STEP 4 – COMPLETE NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION

The National Vendor Declaration (NVD) must be completed compliantly prior to movement of stock.

To complete a NVD compliantly:

- The NVD is a legal document and must be completed and signed
- All questions on the document must be answered to meet compliance
- NVDs need to be used for the agistment property if you are moving or selling sheep or goats from agistment
- It is illegal to make alterations to the pre-printed PIC in the NVD
- You must keep a copy of your completed NVD for 7 years. This happens automatically when using the eNVD.

## STEP 5 – COMPLETE NATIONAL HEALTH DECLARATION

In South Australia, the National Health Declaration is mandatory with every sheep movement. It is an offence not to provide one.

This is unlike cattle movements and other states' regulations where these documents are recommended.

The National Sheep Health Declaration requires the owner/manager of animals to declare information about:

- Ovine Johne's disease (OJD)
- Footrot
- Lice

Failure to provide a National Sheep Health Declaration is an offence under the Livestock Act 1997 and can result in expiation notices and fines.

**Download a National Sheep Health Declaration from the Farm Biosecurity website under the Biosecurity toolkit heading.**

**Download a National Goat Health Declaration from the Farm Biosecurity website under the Biosecurity toolkit heading.**

## STEP 6 – NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM DATABASE AND TRANSFER

All sheep and goat movements must be recorded on the NLIS database.

You will need to register for an NLIS account and retain the log in details to revisit the account.

Movements of sheep or goats to and from saleyards, abattoirs or shows are done by saleyard and abattoir operators or show organisers.

It is a legal requirement that all other sheep or goat movements between PICs are recorded in the NLIS database by the **receiver** of the sheep/goats, such as when buying sheep or goats in a private sale or through an online auction.

Discuss with your livestock agent to find out if they can assist you to scan and record sheep or goat movements.

**Create an account on the NLIS website.**

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

#### Finding a livestock agent

A livestock agent's role is to buy and sell livestock on behalf of their clients and support some of the steps above.

There are local livestock agents in most regions of South Australia. To find one, you can ask your local rural reseller who is in the area or undertake a quick internet search to find a local agency.

These agents can support you through the buying and selling process.

#### PIRSA Animal Health support

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) has staff that are dedicated to supporting producers through the process of buying and selling compliantly.

They also offer biosecurity planning through their One Biosecurity online tool. This is PIRSA's state-wide approach to managing, protecting, and promoting South Australia's strong biosecurity regime across its livestock industry.

**Find out about One Biosecurity online.**

**Find contact details for PIRSA Animal Health staff on the PIRSA website.**

