

## RFID Tags 2012

For the year 2012, both the pink tags and the RFID tags will be accepted at auctions, abattoirs and anytime sheep are moved off your farm.

On January 1, 2013 the pink tags will no longer be accepted when sheep are shipped anywhere, so you are advised to use up any pink tags that you might have for any sheep that you are shipping off of your farm in 2012 (to auctions or abattoirs).

You are also advised to start tagging your replacement ewe lambs with the RFID tags if you plan to have them on your farm next year., and anticipate shipping these ewes in the future.

CCWG has run out of their stock of pink tags and are only selling the RFID tags. If you no longer have pink tags, then you will be buying the new RFID tags and you will need a tagger that goes with these tags.

The Shearwell tags have been evaluated on an Alberta farm and the results are here <http://www.sheepcentral.ca/index.php/equipment/rfid-ear-tags/50-shearwell-rfid-tag-trial-results>

It has been noted by some producers in colder areas that the tags can break from the cold when applying them. This was also noted in the trial above.

Producers do not need to purchase anything more than the tags and the taggers.

If they are interested in the RFID readers, there are a variety of readers and associated equipment on the market. The government has been subsidizing the purchase of the equipment, and the program for this year is winding up but a quick call to Heather Carriere at Ardcorp could tell you if there are any funds left for equipment. It is costly, but the government funds pay 75% of the costs. More on the tags and equipment are on the CSF website, including videos.

Shearwell has just come out with a wand reader that has an optional printer. It is around \$1000, and with the grant it would be \$250 for the unit. This could help with reading tags and give you a printout for your records.