

## KHSI and NSIP Naming Convention Standardization

KHSI and NSIP offer flexibility in the conventions used in identifying animals; to accommodate diverse producer tagging methods. This, however, can lead to buyer confusion when the linkage between the KHSI registration ID and the NSIP ID isn't clear. Worse, it can sometimes lead to an animal being duplicated in the NSIP database with two different IDs and a split data set, reducing accuracy of the GEBVs of that animal, its ancestors and its progeny. If you register sheep with KHSI and participate in NSIP (or think you might someday); KHSI **strongly recommends** the following conventions for IDs in both systems.

The NSIP is sixteen characters long. The first ten characters are pre-defined as below. The last six characters may be used by the producer at their preference. KHSI would like to standardize on all producers using the last three NSIP digits for the ear tag number; and the preceding three characters as the flock ID (formerly known as the 3-character KHSI "flock prefix").

Then, correspondingly in the KHSI registration and flock ID (ear tag), incorporate at least two digits for the year and use the same three digits in the flock tag, preceded by the flock ID.

First 10 characters are pre-defined by NSIP:										Last 6 characters are flexible:							
6	4	#	#	#	#	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	R	E	1	2	3		
Katahdin Breed ID		Producer flock ID				Birth year of animal				3-letter prefix or code			3-digit ear tag #				
<b>KHSI Registration &amp; Flock Tag:</b>										P	R	E	Y	Y	1	2	3

Acceptable variations on the convention:

- If you have more than 999 lambs born in a year: shorten the 3-character prefix to two characters, leaving one more digit at the end for the ear tag #.
- If you prefer to use a letter code for the year in the ear tag # instead of a 1- or 2-digit year, place it after the flock ID but before the ear tag # (in place of the YY).
- If you use a word or string length longer than three characters for your KHSI flock ID: find a way to shorten it to three characters such that it's reasonably recognizable and correlates to your flock ID as much as possible.
- Cull or commercial animals may use "CUL" or "COM" in place of the 3-letter prefix, as is NSIP's standard codes for these categories. It is presumed these animals are not likely to be registered with KHSI, so no corresponding tagging convention is needed.

Things to avoid:

- Mismatched digits for the birth year between NSIP and KHSI. E.g.:

6	4	#	#	#	#	2	0	2	1	P	R	E	1	2	3		
Katahdin Breed ID	Producer flock ID					Birth year of animal				3-letter prefix or code			3-digit ear tag #				
KHSI Registration & Flock Tag:										P	R	E	1	9	1	2	3

- Mismatched ear tag numbers between NSIP and KHSI. E.g.:

6	4	#	#	#	#	2	0	2	1	P	R	E	1	2	3		
Katahdin Breed ID	Producer flock ID					Birth year of animal				3-letter prefix or code			3-digit ear tag #				
KHSI Registration & Flock Tag:										P	R	E	2	1	9	9	9

- No birth year or letter code in the flock tag #. E.g.:

6	4	#	#	#	#	2	0	2	1	P	R	E	1	2	3		
Katahdin Breed ID	Producer flock ID					Birth year of animal				3-letter prefix or code			3-digit ear tag #				
KHSI Registration & Flock Tag:										P	R	E			1	2	3

- Single digit for birth year in the flock tag # (ambiguous year). E.g.:

6	4	#	#	#	#	2	0	2	1	P	R	E	1	2	3		
Katahdin Breed ID	Producer flock ID					Birth year of animal				3-letter prefix or code			3-digit ear tag #				
KHSI Registration & Flock Tag:										P	R	E		1	1	2	3