

Below are general best practices for applying **Allflex® visual ear tags**. Always follow the instructions included with the specific tag and applicator you're using, as placement recommendations can vary slightly by tag style.

Species	Recommended Placement	Tips
Sheep	Place in the middle third of the ear , avoiding cartilage ridges and major veins.	Apply low enough to read easily but not so close to the edge that it tears out.
Goats	Similar to sheep—center of the ear between cartilage ribs.	Nubian and long-eared breeds may require slightly different positioning to prevent rubbing.
Swine	Place in the center of the ear , between the cartilage ribs and away from the head and ear edge.	Avoid placing too close to the ear base or edge where tags are more likely to tear out.

General Application Instructions

1. **Use the correct Allflex applicator** for your tag style.
2. **Clean the applicator** before use and disinfect the pin between animals.
3. **Restrain the animal safely** using appropriate handling equipment.
4. **Inspect the ear** and identify the major blood vessels and cartilage ribs.
5. **Position the tag** in the recommended location.
6. **Squeeze the applicator firmly and quickly** until the tag locks together.
7. **Verify the tag rotates freely** after application.
8. **Monitor the ear** over the next several days for swelling or signs of infection.

Tips to Reduce Tag Loss

- Apply tags during cool, dry weather whenever possible.
- Never place a tag through a cartilage rib.
- Avoid tagging too close to the head or the ear tip.
- Use the proper tag size for the species and age of the animal.
- Replace bent applicator pins immediately, as they can increase ear damage and poor tag retention.

Reminder for all exhibitors:

- Apply tags **well before the Fair** to allow the ear to heal.
- Double-check tag numbers against entry paperwork.

- Do not remove or replace official identification tags without consulting Fair staff.

These placement guidelines are consistent with common Allflex livestock identification practices and help maximize readability while minimizing the chance of tag loss or ear injury.