Department of Primary Industries
Department of Regional NSW

DPI Primefact

NLIS: feral and rangeland goats

April 2023, Primefact PUB18/277, Fourth edition
Animal Biosecurity unit, NSW DPI

Feral goats and depots

A feral goat is defined as one that has been captured from a wild state, has not been born as a result of a managed breeding program, and has not been subjected to any animal husbandry procedure or treatment.

Feral goats include kids born in a depot to a captured doe as a result of unmanaged mating with feral bucks.

Feral goats are *not:*

- captured goats that have been marked, earmarked, tagged, joined or treated with any veterinary medicine, drench or other chemical.
- domestic goats that have been bred in captivity and subsequently escaped or released.

A goat depot is a property that is used to aggregate goats prior to sale or slaughter and operates in accordance with the Industry NLIS Standards for operating a Goat Depot published on the Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) website.

Goat depots must be accredited with Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) which means that a depot can produce its own LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) to accompany goats leaving the depot.

'Rangeland' is a term used by industry to describe the environment from which feral goats have originated for marketing purposes.

The above definition for feral goats is consistent with the feral goat definition contained in the NSW Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017.

For detailed information on National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) responsibilities for goat depots see the Industry NLIS Standards for operating a Goat Depot.

NLIS ear tags

Feral goats do not have to be tagged if they are being moved from the property on which they are captured to an abattoir for slaughter, either directly or via one goat depot. Once at the depot, feral goats must be transported to an abattoir within 10 days to continue to be able to move tag-free.

The exemption from tagging recognises the difficulties with handling feral bucks and determining the property of birth of feral goats.

Once consigned to an abattoir, untagged feral goats must be slaughtered promptly, although they may be held for up to 7 days in holding paddocks managed by the abattoir operator.

Feral goats must be identified with a pink post-breeder tag printed with the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property of capture if the goats are to be moved from that property to any other property (other than a depot), or to a saleyard for sale.

Feral goats must be identified with a pink post-breeder tag printed with the goat depot PIC if the goats are to be moved from the depot to any other property (including another depot), to a saleyard for sale or for live export.

Goats born in a depot do not need to be tagged if they are the result of unmanaged mating between a feral doe and bucks, as long as they have not been marked or treated in any way and are being sent to an abattoir for slaughter. All other goats born in a depot must be tagged before they move from the depot.

Ear tags must be NLIS-approved and be printed with the PIC of the property on which the goats are tagged, together with the NLIS logo. Individual serial numbers and other management information may also be printed on the tags.

NLIS movement documents

All movements of feral goats must be accompanied by an approved NLIS movement document containing the correct delivery information. This must be provided to the person receiving the goats at the time of delivery. The most commonly used forms are:

- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)LPA National Vendor dDeclaration (NVD) and Waybill,
- Electronic or eNVD (see National Vendor Declaration | Integrity System, or available through licensed eNVD software providers), or
- A Transported Stock Statement (TSS) available from Local Land Services (LLS).

The PIC and address of the property where the feral goats are loaded for trucking must be recorded as the 'Property/place where the journey commenced' on an NVD or the 'Place of loading stock' on a TSS.

The current LPA NVD for Goats (GO720 version) asks if all the goats in the consignment are eligible to be moved tag free Yes/No? The answer is **Yes** *if the harvested rangeland (feral) goats are moved from the property on which they were captured to an abattoir for slaughter or directly to a registered goat depot.*

If the feral goats *aren't* moving directly to an abattoir for slaughter, or via one registered goat depot, the answer is **No.** The NVD must then be completed as it is for farmed goats.

If the goats are tagged, any PICs printed on the tags which differ from the pre-printed PIC on the NVD must be written as 'other PICs' in the 'Description' table on the NVD or TSS.

Note: Abattoirs usually do not accept stock with a TSS; an NVD should be used for goats going to slaughter.

A copy of the NVD or TSS must be retained by both the person sending/selling the goats and the goat depot operator for at least 7 years.

Mob-based movement recording

All movements to the goat depot, and from the goat depot, must be recorded by the depot operator as a mob on the NLIS database, and must be uploaded within 2 working days of the goats arriving at or leaving the depot.

Summary of movement requirements

The tag, document and movement recording requirements for feral goats are summarised in the following table.

Movement of feral goats	NLIS Tag	Movement document (NVD or TSS)	Mob based movement recording
Property of capture to abattoir	Exempt	For property of capture (NVD preferred)	By abattoir
Property of capture to depot	Exempt	For property of capture	By depot
Property of capture to property	Post breeder tag for property of capture	For property of capture	By second property
Property of capture to saleyard	Post breeder tag for property of capture	For property of capture	By saleyard
Depot to abattoir	Exempt	For depot (NVD preferred)	By depot
Depot to depot	Post breeer tag for first depot	For first depot	By first depot
Depot to property	Depot	For depot	By depot
Depot to saleyard	Depot	For depot	By depot

More Information

Local Lands Services: 1300 795 299 or go to http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/

NLIS Database Helpdesk: 1800 683 111 or info@integritysystems.com.au

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA): 1800 683 111 or email info@integritysystems.com.au or see Integrity Systems Company website

Goat Industry Council of Australia: www.gica.com.au

For updates go to https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis/sheep-goats

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Regional NSW Development, 2023. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2023). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent advisor.