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## Sheep and goat producers advised deadline not 1 July

The NSW Farmers' Association is advising sheep and goat producers that the mandatory use of pink transaction tags will not come into effect on Wednesday 1 July 2009.

NSW Farmers' Association Sheepmeats Committee Chair Ian McColl says there is much confusion over the discussed introduction of the tags.

"We would like to inform Members that the Primary Industries Ministerial Council has deferred the July 1 date for introduction of mandatory transaction tags," Mr McColl said.

"There has been much speculation that the tags would be required as of next Wednesday 1 July, but this is not the case.

"The delay allows time for further trials to be undertaken to improve the traceability of the current National Livestock Identification Scheme.

"The Ministerial Council is expected to meet in July to determine if mandatory transaction tags will be introduced, but in the interim, sheep and goat producers are encouraged to continue with ensuring they are filling out the current movement documentation correctly," Mr McColl said.

Producers must ensure they include the correct Property Identification Codes (PICs) on their NVD forms, and that all sheep are tagged with PIC compliant tags.

"It is up to us, the producers, to ensure that we are filling in our paperwork and attaching the correct tags to our sheep. This system has the ability to provide effective traceability for our industry, but it is up to us to make sure that this occurs," Mr McColl said.

The Association has long lobbied against the proposed introduction of mandatory pink transaction tags and will keep Members informed of any changes that occur.

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