



FEDERAL CATTLE IDENTIFICATION

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND

USDA-APHIS postponed implementation of the electronic identification (ID) requirements posted by the agency in April 2019. This recent federal action led to confusion in the cattle industry regarding cattle ID.

The current USDA Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule went into effect on March 11, 2013. This rule applies only to interstate movement – cattle moving from one state to or through another state. Cattle moving within a single state are not covered by this rule.

The following types of cattle must be identified with official ID if traveling interstate:

- All sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older
- All female dairy cattle
- All male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013
- Cattle of any age used for rodeo, shows, exhibition, and recreational events

FORMS OF OFFICIAL ID

- Official ear tag with printed US shield (see reverse)
- Group or lot identification number (GIN) for a group of cattle managed entirely together until harvest
- Brands, if registered with a recognized brand inspection authority, along with an official certificate, and approved by the shipping and receiving state animal health officials (very few states)
- Tattoos for breed association registration with a breed registration certificate and approved by the shipping and receiving state animal health officials (very few states)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PRODUCERS

- Cattle can move across state lines directly to an approved tagging site prior to being officially identified.
- Most livestock markets are approved tagging sites.
- Cattle moving across state lines to another premise under the same owner with a written agreement between the owner, and the shipping and receiving state animal health officials are considered commuter herds and do not need official identification. This includes pasture to pasture permits.

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For additional information, visit:
www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_Traceability



National Cattlemen's
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A**B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I**

TYPES OF OFFICIAL EAR TAGS

- A. NUES metal tags/silver/brite tags
- B. 840 electronic/radiofrequency tags (RFID)
- C. 840 visual only tags
- D. Orange metal Bangs vaccination tags
- E. Bangs RFID tag (for Bangs vaccinated animals tagged with non-orange RFID tags, veterinarians can link vaccination records to the tag number)
- F. 900 tags if applied before 3/11/2015 (no US shield required)
- G. Location-based tags with a premises identification number (PIN) or location identification number with a unique within-herd number
- H. USA prefix tags if applied before 3/11/2015 (no US shield required)
- I. USDA approved backtags (moving to approved livestock facility and/or direct to slaughter)



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