



USDA Electronic Identification for Cattle: Information for Veterinarians

The Utah Department of Agriculture & Food

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General Information

- EID stands for Electronic Identification
- Goes into effect November 5, 2024
- Animals with existing metal tags/official ID are grandfathered in - EID changes only apply to new tags being applied
- Only applies to cattle being moved interstate
- Helps to improve our ability to accurately trace animals during a disease outbreak.
 - Reduces human error.
 - Increase submission of electronic paperwork (not mandated).
 - Reduce tracing to hours instead of days.
 - Reduce additional herds impacted by quarantine and testing.
- Dairy Cattle Definition Clarification: All cattle that are purebred or crossbred with a dairy breed (such as Jersey or Holstein) are considered dairy cattle for purposes of interstate movement, regardless of age, sex, or purpose

EID Changes

- Official ear tags applied after the rule goes into effect must be readable both visually and electronically
 - Two types of low-frequency tags available: FDX and HDX
 - Currently 8 approved manufacturers
- Does not require purchasing of a reader as tags are visually readable.

Other Changes/Notes

- 840 tags cannot be placed in animals born outside the United States. USDA is working on an official tag that can be used in those animals.
- Replacement tags must be recorded and maintained for five years.
- Female cattle/bison can currently have two official ID tags if one is a metal brucellosis tag and the other is an RFID tag. After this goes into effect, they can only have one official ID tag unless grandfathered in.

Record Keeping Requirements

- Any state, veterinarian, or other person/entity that distributes official ear tags must maintain records for 5 years of who the tags were distributed to (name & address).
 - Records must be entered into a database (e.g. USAHERDS or USDA's AIMS).
 - "Distributes" is different from "applies."
 - Additional guidance is in the Official Animal Identification Device Standards (OAIDS).
- Any official ear tags applied by a veterinarian to an animal must be kept in a readily accessible record system.
 - Record system can be the veterinary clinic's software.
 - Records must be:
 - Accurate, legible, and complete
 - Available to a government entity (UDAF or USDA) within 48 hours of receipt of request. APHIS allowed access during normal business hours.
 - Kept for:
 - 5 years for cattle, bison, sheep, goats, cervids, and equids
 - 2 years for poultry and swine