New USDA Rule: Electronic ID Tags Required for Cattle and Bison Effective November 5, 2024

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Contact: Kelly Mella, Public Information Officer, (608) 440-0294
kelly.mella@wisconsin.gov

MADISON, Wis. – A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule requiring newly applied cattle and bison official ID tags to have both a visual and electronic component will go into effect on November 5, 2024. Currently, the only official tags that meet these requirements are 840 RFID tags.

This requirement applies to official identification placed for any reason, including interstate movement, brucellosis vaccination, and tuberculosis testing. Cattle tagged with visual-only official tags prior to November 5, 2024, do not need to be retagged unless they lose their ID. These changes only apply to official ID for cattle and bison.

The purpose of this rule is to improve livestock traceability. Electronic identification tags and systems provide many advantages over traditional metal tags, including faster information sharing, more accurate and precise identification of animals, and significantly faster record searches during disease outbreaks.

Along with the transition to electronic identification, the rule also clarifies the definition of "dairy cattle" to include crossbred calves of any breed that are born to dairy cattle. This means these animals will need to be identified as dairy cattle for interstate movement.

In addition, the rule requires that all dairy cattle, including dairy steers, have individual official ID included on certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs). A statement on the CVIs that dairy steers are officially identified will no longer be sufficient.

For more information, visit the websites below:

- USDA's published final rule
- DATCP's Official ID and Traceability webpage

About 840 EID Tags

Official 840 EID tags can be purchased through any distributor of animal products that sells USDA-approved tags. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains a list of USDA-approved EID tags on their website. Your premises identification number is required to order.

Only Animal Identification Number Device Managers can redistribute official 840 EID tags. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability and refer to the "How to Become an AIN Device Manager" section to learn more.

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