Electronic Identification Tag Reader Program

Applications due:
Rolling as available through March 31, 2020

Contact:
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Information on this project is available at
https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/OfficialID.aspx

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) encourages the use of electronic systems to read and record official animal identification (ID) for both regulatory and management purposes. Some producers are voluntarily choosing to use 840 radiofrequency identification (RFID) tags as official ID in several different livestock species, including cattle and bison. 840 RFID tags offer advantages over traditional tags, such as reading from a distance and recording and transmitting information with greater accuracy and speed.

To promulgate the use of this technology, DATCP, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will offer a long-term loan of the Allflex RS420 portable stick reader technology ("readers") to eligible participants.

Proposal Review Criteria

Ten readers are available for distribution to eligible participants. An initial application period closed September 30, 2019. At the end of that period, readers will be distributed to eligible participants. In the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of readers available, readers will be awarded by a selection committee based on the following criteria:

- The applicant demonstrates the use of electronic regulatory documents such as electronic certificates of veterinary inspection and electronic submission of tuberculosis (TB) test and brucellosis vaccination reports.
- The applicant actively works or plans to work with large numbers of animals with electronic identification in practice.
- Although veterinarians from the same practice can submit applications for readers, because there is a limited number of readers available, initial distribution of the readers will be to only one veterinarian per clinic. Distribution to additional veterinarians in a given clinic may be considered based on estimated use of the reader and number of applications received for readers.

DATCP may require additional information to review prior to awarding readers.

If readers are still available after evaluating applications received on or before September 30, 2019, the readers will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis to eligible participants. Veterinarians identified by DATCP as heavy users of electronic regulatory documents including animals with apparent RFID official identification may be solicited by DATCP to use the readers after the initial application period has closed.

Application Timing

An initial application period will be open until September 30, 2019. After this time applications may continue to be submitted and will be considered based on reader availability. Applications must be received by DATCP no later than March 31, 2020. DATCP reserves the right to extend this date based on reader availability and program participation.

Participant Eligibility

Applicants must satisfy the following criteria to be deemed eligible to participate:

- Applicants must have a current license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin and be accredited by APHIS as a Category II veterinarian.
- Applicants should have a demonstrable need and be prepared to use these readers on an ongoing basis.
- Applicants should be prepared to use the readers in the production of regulatory documents necessary to track animal movement, such as certificates of veterinary inspection.
- Applicants should be prepared to use the readers in the production of regulatory documents necessary to record animal health events, such as TB testing and brucellosis vaccination reports.
- Applicants should be prepared to submit quarterly reports detailing use.
- Applicants using electronic regulatory documents would be exempt from all reporting requirements.
- Have no outstanding state penalties or violations and be in good standing with Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.
- Employees of DATCP and immediate family members (for example, mother, father, brother, sister, spouse, and children) are not eligible to receive a reader.

Reader Description

The reader being offered for use is the RS-420 reader, a rugged, portable hand-held scanner and telemeter for electronic identification (EID) ear tags specifically designed for livestock applications. The reader fully complies with ISO standards ISO11784/ISO11785 for FDX-B and HDX technologies. (This reader will read low frequency 840 RFID devices). In addition to its tag reading capability, the reader can store the ear tag numbers in different working sessions, each ear tag being associated with a time and date stamp, in its internal memory, and transmit them to a personal computer via a USB interface, an RS-232 interface, or a Bluetooth interface.

Funding Source

Funding for these readers was provided by USDA APHIS through a cooperative agreement with DATCP. DATCP is administering this program as specified in the cooperative agreement.

Application Requirements and Submittal Process

- The application form is located on the DATCP website at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/OfficialID.aspx.
- The initial application period will close September 30, 2019. Applications received or postmarked between October 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis while readers remain available.
- Applications must be emailed to gretchen.may@wisconsin.gov, or faxed to DATCP-DAH Attn: Gretchen May at (608) 224-4871, or mailed to DATCP-DAH Attn: Gretchen May, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911.
- If you do not have computer access to download and complete the application, contact Gretchen May at (608) 224-4352.

Contracts

DATCP will develop a terms of use agreement for each reader. **No use commitment is final until the reader is presented.**

Payments and Retention

Payment by the applicant is required prior to presentation of the reader. A one-time non-refundable administrative service fee of $250 is due at the time of presentation. While DATCP retains control over the use of the readers, the applicant will retain custody of the reader indefinitely unless there is reason to recall the reader based on the criteria listed in the section "Return of the Reader."

Return of the Reader

To promulgate the use of RFID official identification and the electronic systems associated with their use, which improves efficiency and accuracy when reading and recording animal IDs, it is DATCP's intent to provide these low frequency RFID readers to veterinarians for their use. It is expected that veterinarians awarded the use of these readers will be using them in their practice and will retain custody of them on a long-term basis. However, to continue to keep the readers in use, DATCP reserves the right to recall the readers at any time for the following reasons:

- The veterinarian is not using it
- The veterinarian does not submit required reports
- Decertification of the veterinarian as described in state law [Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 10.05(2)]
- Misconduct or uncooperative behavior of the veterinarian
- Falsification of reports or regulatory documents
- Urgent or emergency animal disease events
- Broken reader
- Voluntary surrender by the veterinarian
- Any other reason deemed necessary by DATCP to fulfill the purpose stated above

Reporting Requirements

DATCP reserves the right to modify reporting requirements during the course of the project. There are no reporting requirements for veterinarians who are using electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVIs) and submitting TB test reports and brucellosis vaccination reports electronically. For applicants not using eCVIs and submitting TB and brucellosis records electronically, a quarterly report detailing the use of the reader each quarter is required. Quarter end dates are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year the applicant has the reader in their possession. Reports are due 2 weeks after each quarter ends. This report should include:

- Applicant's name
- Report date
- Dates of use OR average number of days/week in use
- Number of animals read [total or per read date (can be approximate)]
- Reasons for use
- Number of veterinarians using the reader

Open Records

Applications and all related agreements and reports shall be subject to disclosure under the Public Records law. Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31 – 19.39. Information may be kept confidential by DATCP only as authorized by law.

Other Considerations

All applications submitted become the property of DATCP. DATCP reserves the right to:
- Provide summary reports to DATCP and APHIS
- Reject any or all applications received
- Clarify the scope of this program, with appropriate notice to potential applicants, to best serve the interests of the State of Wisconsin
- Amend program specifications after their release, with appropriate written notice to participants
- Modify any aspects of the program with appropriate written notice to participants