



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Office of Marketing
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

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Animal Health

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Date: March 13, 2017

Dear Cattle and Swine Exhibitor:

RE: Official Identification Requirements and Information for Exhibition of Cattle and Swine For the 2017 Maryland Fairs and Shows Season


Overview

By authority of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 15.11.14.06, *Exhibitor Requirements*), the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Program now require that **ALL** cattle and swine exhibited during the 2017 Maryland Fairs and Shows Season must have Official United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Ear Tags.

What are Official USDA RFID Ear Tags?

Official USDA RFID Ear Tags are those approved by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that provide official identification numbers for individual animals associated with premises containing a Standardized National Premises Identification Number (PIN).

The primary criteria for Official USDA Ear Tags include the following:

- Imprinted with an Official USDA Animal Identification Number (AIN). USA = “840” followed by letters/numbers designating flock/herd, premises or animal number.)
- Bear the Official US shield: 
- Are tamper proof and of high retention

How Can Exhibitors Obtain Official USDA RFID Ear Tags?

Two ways:

1. Official USDA RFID Ear Tags are available for purchase through commercial tag manufacturers and vendors. **A Premises Identification Number (PIN) is required before purchasing Official USDA Ear Tags.** Exhibitors may register their farm and obtain a *premises identification number* by contacting the Maryland Department of Agriculture by phone at 410-841-5810 or by email at: animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov. The *Premises Registration Form* is available on the MDA website at: <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/disease-traceability.aspx>.
2. If exhibitors just have one or a few animals needing official identification, Official USDA RFID Ear Tags may be available from Maryland Accredited Veterinarians. Exhibitors should contact their veterinarian in advance about this need. Veterinarians may choose to apply the tag at the time they are performing the visual health inspection needed for issuing a CVI. Exhibitors should **not** assume that their veterinarian will have tags if not contacted in advance.

It is ideal for Official US RFID Ear Tags to be applied at an animal's point of origin or where it is born. This provides the greatest level of effectiveness for animal disease traceability procedures. This could mean that exhibition animals purchased by exhibitors may already have other Official USDA Identification applied. If the official ear tag present is not RFID, one must be purchased and applied before a 2017 Maryland Fair or Show.

Additional Information about Official USDA RFID Ear Tags

Official Identification must be applied prior to exhibition. For animals requiring a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), **veterinarians completing Maryland CVIs must include the required ENTIRE official identification information on the CVI.**

It is unlawful to remove an official identification tag. If an animal does not have an RFID ear tag, the animal can be “double” tagged with a RFID ear tag. This is an allowable upgrade.

If it becomes necessary to retag an animal with a new official RFID ear tag (assigned to that premise), every effort should be made to correlate the new official RFID number with the previous official number. A record of this change should be kept on file by the exhibitor. **Also, the new official RFID ear tag number must correlate to that retagged animal's Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) as recorded by a veterinarian.**

Below is a list of *approved manufacturers and samples of Official USDA RFID ear tags.* Manufacturers and vendors will typically have a minimum order requirement. Contact information for approved manufacturers/companies can be found on *the USDA APHIS ADT website* at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/AIN_device_list.pdf

: USDA Approved AIN “840” RFID Manufacturers

• Allflex USA, Inc.	• Destron Fearing	• Southfork Solutions Inc.
• Alliance ID (microchips)	• Hana Micron America	• Stockbrands Co. Pty. Ltd.
• AVID Identification Systems Inc. (microchips)	• Leader Products	• Temple Tag Ltd.
• Datamars, Inc (microchips)	• MicroTraks, Inc.	• Y-Text Corporation
	• Shearwell Data Limited	• Zee Tags Limited

Samples of AIN “840” RFID Ear Tags:

If you have questions, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health Phone: 410-841-5810 or E-mail: animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Radebaugh, VMD
 Michael W. Radebaugh, VMD
 State Veterinarian