

Animal Identification: Animal Disease Traceability, Electronic Identification Tags

Renewed at the 2021 USCA Annual Meeting.

WHEREAS there have been ongoing discussions over the past few years regarding the transition of official identification from brands, tags, etc. to electronic identification tags (EIDs), and

WHEREAS there is concern across the countryside that a move toward EIDs will open the door for private tag and data companies, and other allied industries, to profit from the effort, leaving the producers' information in the hands of a third-party provider,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the main reason for official identification is for disease traceability, and it is with the above concerns in mind that USCA suggests that any official USDA identification remain focused on disease traceability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED USCA supports the inclusion of the following points in any workable national animal identification program:

- There should be no private control of data, or access to the data, without the prior approval of the owner at the time of application.
- 840 series EID tags should be only used as official EID on US born and raised cattle (900 series tags are not unique in their official identification)
- All official USDA tag information should be held in state animal health data bases and shared with federal animal health officials as needed.
- The use of USDA metal NEUS tags and electronic tags should continue. The industry requires more time to adapt and transfer to an all-electronic system; time will determine whether multiple systems can be used.
- Official ID should only be required on breeding cattle and only as they move into interstate commerce, or as determined by each state's importation requirements
- As the industry looks to adopt EIDs, financial assistance from USDA will be required to supply reader equipment, both low frequency (LF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF).
- As any future transition is made to EIDs, the process will eventually need to move to UHF in order to improve read range and the ability to read animals and groups at speed of commerce.
- Producers should never be responsible for more than the cost of the tags.
- Premises identification numbers (PINs) should not be required to acquire and apply EID tags. The same information can be gathered on health certificates and test charts and other animal health documents