

USDA Cattle Traceability Requirements

Effective March 11, 2013

Beef Cattle. All sexually intact cattle over 18 months of age moving across state lines must be officially identified and be accompanied by an approved document showing the official ID numbers of the animals being moved.

Dairy Cattle: All male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013 and sexually intact dairy cattle of all ages moving across state lines must be officially identified and accompanied by an approved document showing the official ID numbers of the animals being moved, the only exception are dairy steers that must be officially identified but the official ID numbers do not have to be individually listed on the approved movement document.

Slaughter Cattle: May move directly and within 3 days to slaughter with an approved USDA back tag. This is only for cattle that will be slaughtered within 72 hrs.

Approved Tagging Sites: Facilities designated as "Approved Tagging Sites" may receive cattle requiring identification and apply official identification tags. The tagging site may charge for this service.

Official identification for cattle moving interstate includes the following;

1. USDA approved silver metal ear tags referred to as NUES tags
2. USDA approved orange vaccination ear tags
3. USDA approved 840 RFID ear tags.

NUES = National Uniform Eartagging System

RFID = Radio-Frequency Identification

Official USDA NUES metal ear tags are available at no charge from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to producers. The Department requires a premises identification number (Prem. ID) when distributing NUES tags to producers. Producers may call (615) 837-5120, 8 a.m. -4:30 p.m. CST, Monday - Friday to order ear tags or e-mail animalhealth@tn.gov. with a subject line of New Metal Tag order. Producers need to supply the following information to order official tags: premise identification number, contact phone number, physical address for UPS delivery (no P.O. boxes), number of tags needed (tags are supplied in boxes of 100). Other official tags are available for sale by USDA approved manufacturers. A list of approved tag manufacturers for official tags can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Veterinarian