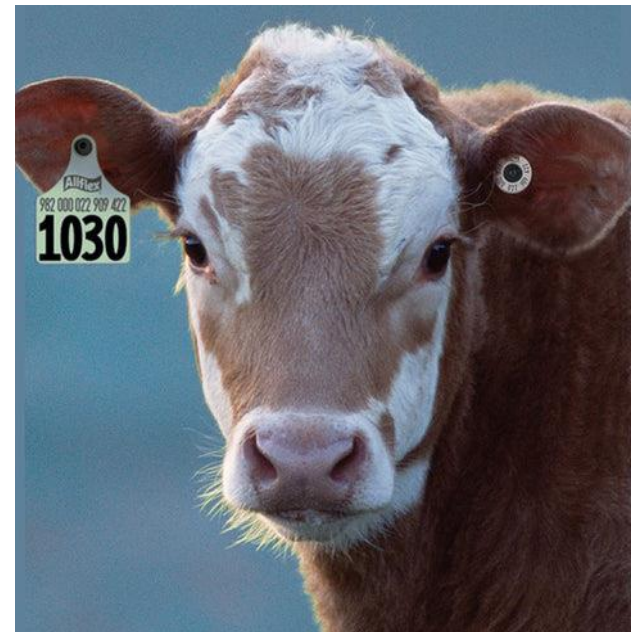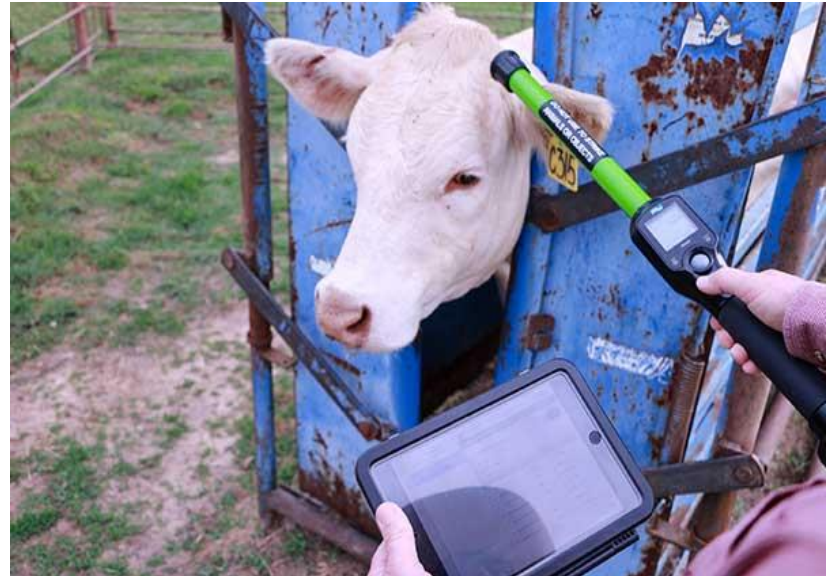# ADT Final Rule 2024

Use of Electronic Identification (EID) as Official Identification in Cattle

ADT Final Rule 2024

Beginning November 5th, 2024 ear tags applied to cattle must be readable both visually and electronically to be recognized as official ID.

This change is being made to enhance the traceability and improve response time to high-impact diseases currently existing in the United States, as well as foreign animal diseases that threaten U.S cattle and bison industries

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What cattle require an official ID?

Official ID is only required when cattle are moving interstate.

Cattle require official ID if –

- They are dairy cattle of any age including offspring of dairy cattle.
- They are sexually intact and at least 18 months of age. (beef)
- They are used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational events.

These requirements only represent approximately 11 % of the nations inventory.

Many cattle never move interstate, and a portion that do are exempt from requirements. Notably feeder cattle that are less than 18 months of age, and cull cattle going to slaughter.

Approved brands and tattoos are still considered official ID.

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Benefits of requiring EID

- EID will enhance the ability to quickly respond to disease outbreaks.

- Improve the ability to regionalize and compartmentalize animal health issues.

- Minimize costs and market delays associated with animal disease outbreaks.

- Allow retirement of tags upon slaughter reducing the number of animal ID numbers involved in a trace.

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Common Feedback
1. Durability and Efficiency of EID

"These EID tags fall out all the time. The metal ones stay in"
EID suppliers are required to complete rigorous testing and must meet a 99% retention rate per year. Almost all reported issues are from user error.

"Metal tags work just fine. I've never had an issue with tracing my cattle"
Test exercises have shown states can trace EID tags in less than 1 hour. When tracing non EID (metal) tags lengthy times and failed traces happen due to transcription error and labor intensive searches of paper filing.

"EID will cause more transcription errors because they are 15 digits instead of 9"
The 15 digit system used to number EID always begins with the same 6 digits (840003). Also EID's 9 unique digits are compromised of numbers, whereas the 9 digits of a metal tag are alpha numeric.

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Common Feedback
2. Cost of EID

"EID tags cost more and I can't afford them"

USDA does acknowledge that at some point producers may have to assume cost associated with purchasing EID, and so have done an analysis to estimate that cost.

- Cost to tag 11% of nations cattle with EID annually $29.3 million
- Approximately $30.45 per cattle operation, or 2.5 cents per $100 in cash receipts.

USDA has historically provided funding for distribution of EID and plans to do so as long as funding is available.

"What about the readers, computer software, and extra labor I need to pay for"

There is no requirement to purchase readers or software in the rule. Tags are still visually readable and thus can be used in the same manner as metal tags.

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Implementing the Final Rule in Pennsylvania

- Improvement of supportive infrastructure
  - Installation of Panel Readers at Markets and collection points to gather more reads of EID.
  - Provide tag applicators to Vets or Approved Tagging Sites dependent on funding.
  - Ensure all staff have access to hand and wand readers.
- Provide no cost EID tags to Vets, Approved Tagging Sites, and a limited number to producers. Dependent on funding and tag distribution from USDA.

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Implementing the Final Rule in Pennsylvania

- Education and outreach
  - Top-down approach starting with Veterinarians, Approved Tagging Sites, and Dairy Health Improvement Assoc. (DHIA)
  - Provide material that can further be disbursed to producers

- Collection / use of metal tags
  - How many tags do we have?
  - Utilize them before Nov. 5th
  - Utilize them for other species
  - Collect and destroy any remaining tags.