

# 2024 Final USDA Animal Disease Traceability Rule



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is animal disease traceability?**

A: Animal disease traceability (ADT), or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when, is important to ensuring a rapid response when animal disease events take place. ADT does not prevent disease. However, an efficient and accurate traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in a disease investigation and reduces the time needed to respond, which reduces the economic strain on owners and affected communities.

### **Q: How do official EID tags enhance traceability?**

A: Official eartags provide animal health officials with a specific starting point from which to trace diseased or potentially diseased (exposed) animals. The required tag distribution records associate the official identification number with the person that received the device. Without official identification, animal health officials' ability to accurately trace an animal's movements can take months or may never be achieved. Official eartags provide the opportunity to conduct a disease investigation from two points of reference rather than just one.

### **Q: If my animal is already identified with a USDA metal visual-only official identification tag, will I be required to apply an electronically readable tag?**

A: No, if your animal has been tagged with a visual only official identification tag prior to the rule's effective date, you are not required to apply an electronically readable tag to the animal. All visual-only official identification tags applied to cattle and bison prior to the date of the rule becoming effective will be considered official identification for the lifetime of the animal.

### **Q: What animals will be impacted by the new EID rule?**

A: There is no change to the animals that are required to be officially identified. The 2024 USDA final ADT rule covers all sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or older, all dairy cattle of any age, and all cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational events. The 2024 final ADT rule only applies to the interstate movement of covered classes of cattle and bison.

### **Q: How much will official EID tags cost producers?**

A: A limited number of Official EID tags are available at no cost to veterinarians and livestock markets, however official EID tags can also be purchased directly from manufacturers and distributors.

### **Q: Will I have to buy additional equipment to read the tags?**

A: No, the new EID rule makes all official identification tags both electronically and visually readable from an arms length away by a person with 20/20 vision. EID tags can be used in the same manner as visual only tags by those who do not wish to invest in tag-reading equipment.

### **Q: What is an official EID tag?**

A: An official EID tag or an official electronic identification tag is a USDA approved official tag for animal disease traceability. Official EID tags are 15– digits long starting with 840-, have the US shield, and says "Unlawful to Remove".