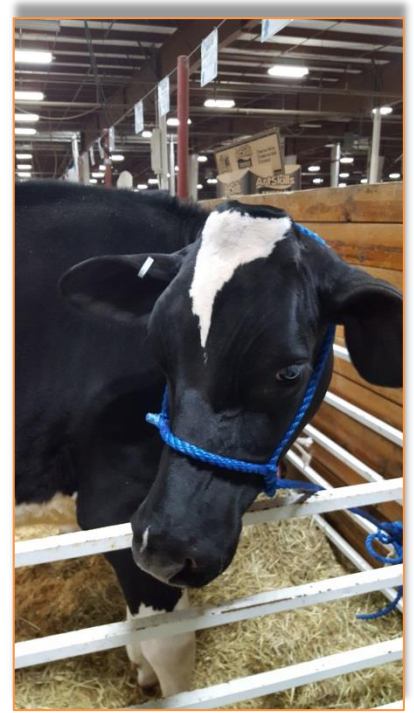
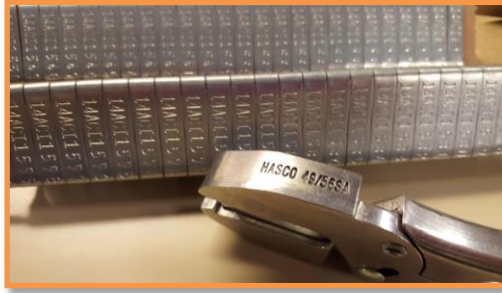


## MDAR- Official ID for Livestock 2023



### Official ID- Cattle

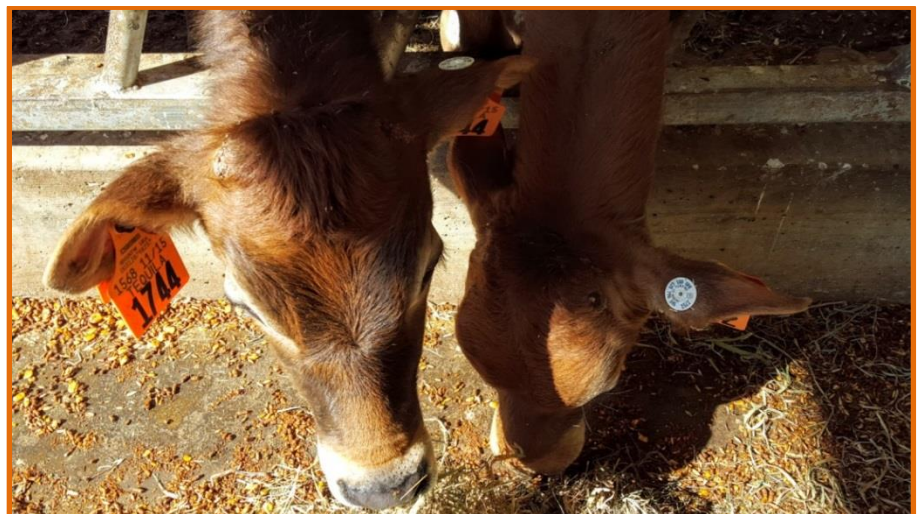
#### NUES Tags for Cattle (9-digit metal ear tag)

- Start with state code: MA is 14
- Available free to producers and vets through MDAR (limited supply) with taggers
- Valid as Official Individual ID if have US Shield insignia
- Will be phased out in favor of RFID (840) tags- Timeline for phaseout expected to be announced 2023 or 2024

#### RFID Tags (840 tags)

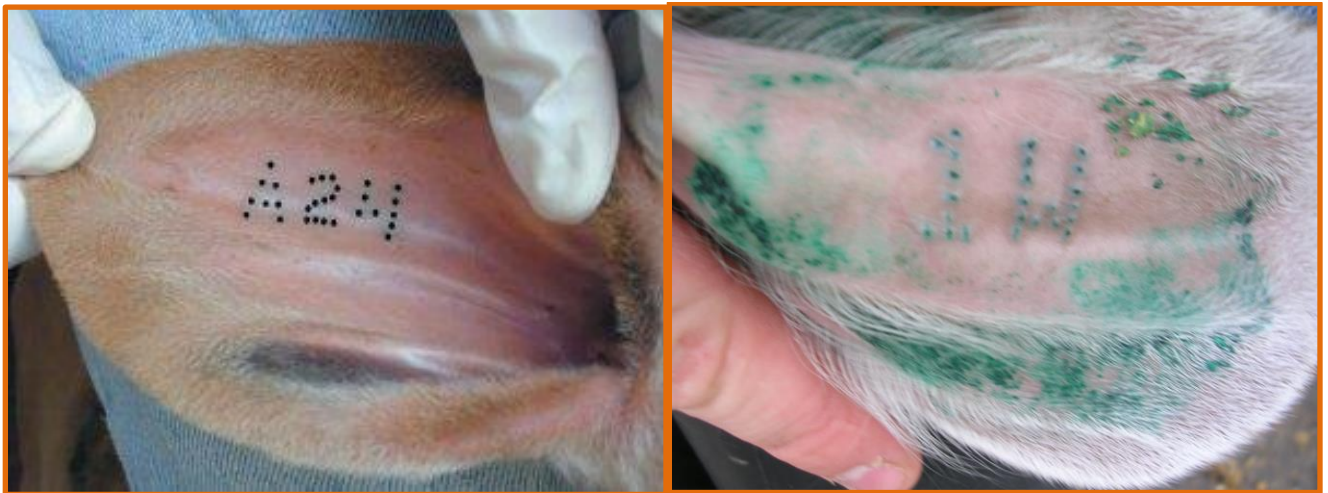
- A Premises Identification Number (PIN) issued by the state is required to order RFID (producer contacts MDAR to have PIN issued- free)
- A limited number of free tags will be available to veterinarians and qualifying producers annually from MDAR
- May be ordered through a tag supplier, breed registry, or industry organization
- Two technologies: Low Frequency (LF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF). LF are typical in New England
- Can be read with an RFID reader/ wand (must be for that specific technology) or visually
- RFID numbers can be automatically uploaded onto electronic CVIs and test forms
- Required for cattle at Big E starting in 2019
- 15 digits starting with USA code "840"
- A timeline for transition to RFID 840 tags as the only official ID for bovines is expected in 2023

*Backtags (paper tags glued to back by dealers or markets ARE NOT official ID but are useful for traceability.*



### Cattle, Sheep, and Goats- Ear Tattoos

- Tattoo numbers are issued by breed registry and tattooed into the animal's right and left ears as instructed
- Official only when accompanied by registration papers in the name of the *current owner*; must accompany CVI
- Will no longer be considered official for cattle/ small ruminants after transition to RFID is complete



### Official ID- Sheep and Goats

- Sheep and goats that moved from the premises where they are born or over 18 months of age must be tagged or have registry assigned ear (tail in La Mancha) tattoos accompanied by official registration in the name of the *current owner* (not valid for change of ownership in MA)
- Scrapie Prevention Program: USDA program aimed at disease eradication; “Scrapie tags” used for ID
- Premises Identification Number required to be assigned or sold Scrapie tags
- Metal tags are currently free through MDAR (small producers, veterinarians) or USDA (Producer-specific tags)
- Plastic (white) or Metal (orange or white) may move interstate with a CVI
- Blue tags are for animals intended for slaughter within 72 hours
- Moving to RFID “840” tags- transition dates to be announced by 2023



### Official ID- Swine

- Must be officially ID'd when moving from premises of origin (unless direct to slaughter or slaughter market in some states)
- 9-digit metal tag with US Shield Insignia and taggers are free through MDAR
- Custom plastic tags with premises ID may be ordered from tag manufacturers
- Premises ID (PIN) issued by MDAR required
- Slap tattoos applied to swine moving through a market or to slaughter are not official ID
- “Mini” pigs must be officially, visually ID'd just like their larger cousins
- Ear notches are not accepted by MA as a form of swine ID





### Official ID- Horses

- Lip and freeze tattoos associated with registries and microchips are considered official individual ID for horses
- USTA and other organizations are moving to thermal microchips that also provide a temperature reading
- Complete descriptions and/or photos of the horse may be used as ID for CVIs or EIA (Coggins) tests



### Official ID- Camelids

- Microchips are individual ID for llamas, alpacas, and dromedary camels
- Owners should provide microchip readers

### Official ID- Rabbits

- Registry-issued tattoo numbers applied to the ear are considered official ID for rabbits
- A mini-microchip may be used for ID in rabbits within MA (verify with show office that this is allowed before shipping)
- Owners should provide microchip readers (or ensure they are available at exhibition site)

**For ADT Questions, Premises Identification Numbers (PINs), or to order official ID tags:**

*Carry Shulock Sexton*  
 Animal Disease Traceability  
 Coordinator Division of Animal Health  
 617-857-3922  
[carry.shulock-sexton@mass.gov](mailto:carry.shulock-sexton@mass.gov)



Updated 29 April 2022