

MDAR Animal Disease Traceability and Official ID for Livestock 2024-2025

General Information

- Official USDA Identification Tags are illegal to remove. One official ID per animal; however, an electronic 840 ID tag can be added to an animal with a different form of official ID.
- Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) are required for animals exhibited in MA and/or moving interstate except for backtagged animals moving direct to slaughter or through one livestock market and then to slaughter. Electronic CVIs are preferred. Official paper CVI forms are available from MDAR until current supplies run out.
- Testing is not required for animals entering MA for exhibition only*. Annual agreements for CVIs for animals exhibited and horses raced in New England states may be announced annually and can be found in the MA Animal Health Rules for Fairs and Shows.

Cattle

Official identification requirements apply to all sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or over; all female dairy cattle of any age and all dairy males born after March 11, 2013; cattle of any age used for rodeo or recreational events; and cattle of any age used for shows or exhibitions. Beef animals under 18 months of age moving interstate direct to slaughter or through one livestock market then to slaughter may move on market- or dealer-applied backtags rather than official ID.

*CVIs are required for animals moving interstate except for backtagged animals moving direct to slaughter or through one livestock market and then to slaughter. Testing is not required for bovines moving from TB- and brucellosis-free states. A permit is required for all bovines moving into the state permanently. *Regarding HPAI: testing and movement requirements are evolving. Please ensure compliance with the most current state and federal requirements.*

Sheep and Goats

Sheep and goats in MA must be officially identified before moving from their premises of origin or reach 18 months of age, whichever comes first (MA Emergency Order AH-1 1996). Animals moving direct to in-state slaughter from their premises of origin are exempt. CVIs are required for interstate movement except for animals moving directly to slaughter or through one livestock market and then to slaughter.

Sheep and goats moving to MA permanently must be tested for TB within 60 days of entry to MA. In addition, intact goats over 6 months of age must be tested for brucellosis within 30 days of entry.

Swine

For interstate movements, all swine must be individually identified with official identification unless the swine are kept as a group and are moved as a group direct to slaughter using a group lot ID. MA does not have any swine under swine health production group agreements. CVIs are required for interstate movement except for backtagged animals moving directly to slaughter or through one livestock market and then to slaughter.

Swine entering MA cannot have been fed raw garbage. Those from pseudorabies-free states (currently all 50) do not require testing. Swine to be used for breeding must be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days of entry into MA. A permit is required for swine moving permanently into MA, including for research. All "pet" swine are subject to MA identification and movement documentation requirements.

Equines

Horses, mules, and donkeys must be individually identified (including a complete description of the animal) and accompanied by a CVI for interstate movement. Animals over 6 months of age must have proof of a negative EIA test within the previous year (six months for horses going to auction or similar sale). The temperature of equines on the day of inspection must be recorded on the CVI for animals entering MA.

Camelids

The USDA doesn't define official individual ID for camelids, but animals must be officially identified by microchip, tattoo, complete description, or ear tag for interstate movement. A CVI is required for all interstate movements. Negative TB testing within 60 days of entry and negative brucellosis and blue tongue (if appropriate) testing within 30 days of entry and a permit from MDAR are needed for permanent import into MA.

Backtags

Backtags (USDA-printed paper tags glued to the back of livestock by dealers or markets) and temporary ear tags without a US Shield ARE NOT official ID but are useful for management purposes and traceability and may be present along with official ID tags.

Official ID Types

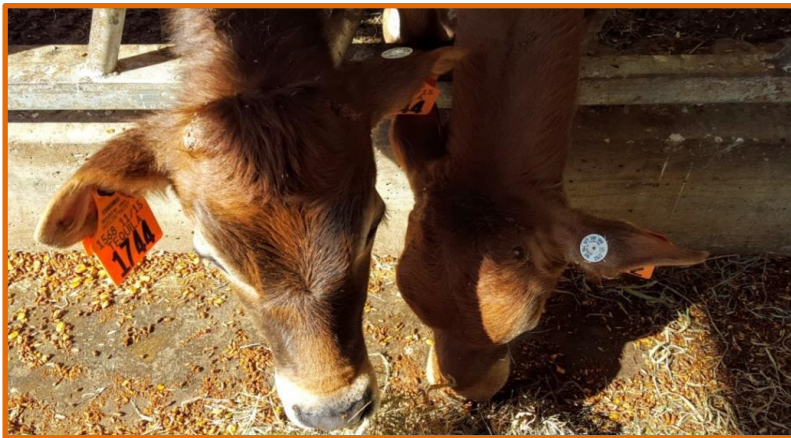
RFID Tags (840 tags)

Bovines, Swine

Sheep, Goats when Scrapie program records are kept

Can be used in camelids as individual ID

- Effective November 5, 2024, RFID tags are the only official USDA ID tag that can be placed in bovines
- Series of fifteen (15) digits, numbers only, starting with USA code "840"
- Can be added to other forms of ID: NUES tags, tattoos, etc.
- 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 via tag-reader applications
- A Premises Identification Number (PIN) issued by the state is required to order RFID (producer contacts MDAR to have PIN issued- free)
- May be ordered through a tag supplier, breed registry, or industry organization
- A limited number of free tags may be available to veterinarians and qualifying producers annually from MDAR for use in bovines
- Veterinarians are encouraged to have RFID tags on hand to use when testing or writing CVIs



NUES Tags

Swine, Bovines tagged before November 5, 2024

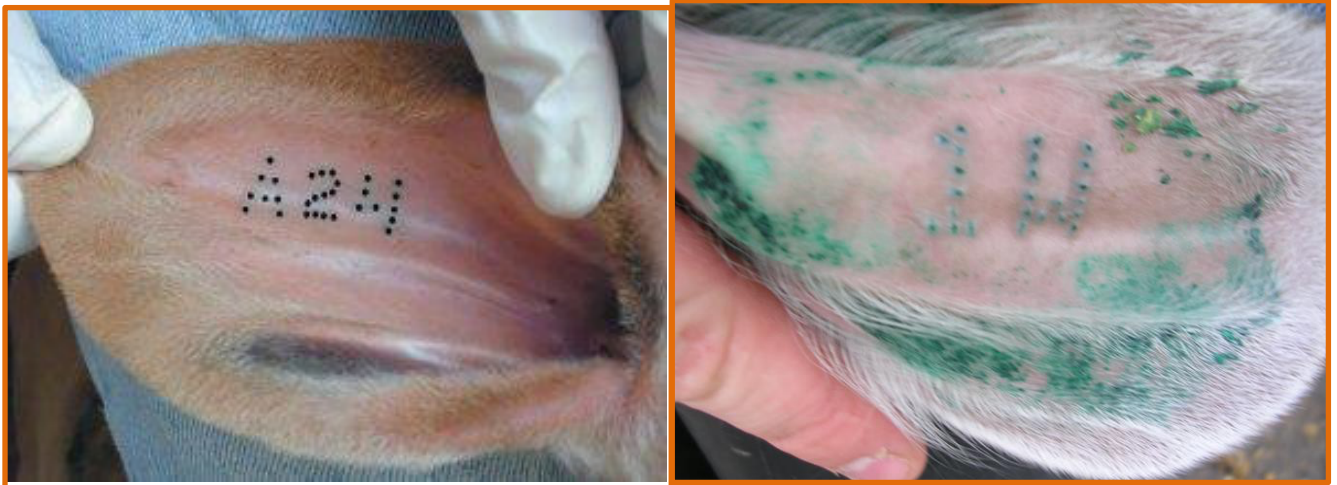
- Metal clip ear tags with an eight- (8) or nine- (9) digit series of letter and number beginning with a 2-digit state code; MA is 14
- Available for free from MDAR



Ear Tattoos

Sheep, Goats, Swine, Camelids

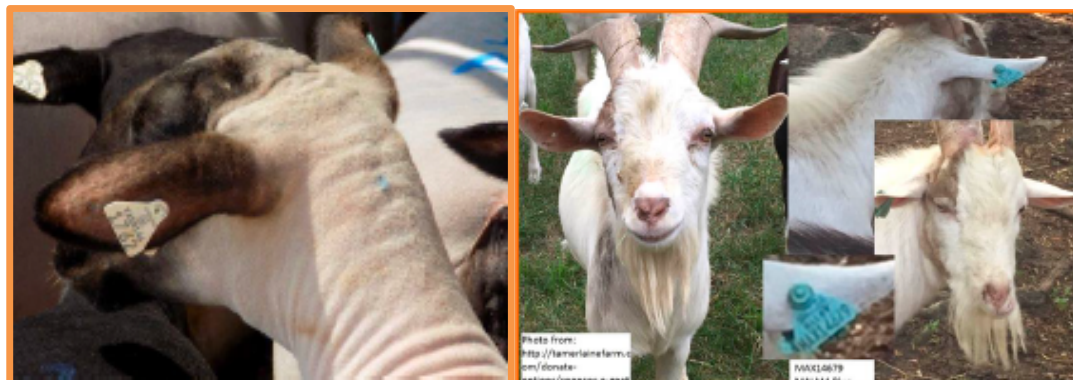
- Tattoo numbers are issued by breed registry and tattooed into the animal's right and left ears as instructed
- Official only when accompanied by registration papers in the name of the *current owner* or in the name of the previous owner along with a copy of the application for change of ownership dated within the previous six months
- A copy of the registration paperwork must accompany CVI when submitted to the receiving state or presented for inspection at exhibition; An image of the registration should be added as an attachment to electronic CVIs
- Not valid as official ID for animals in slaughter channels



Scrapie Tags

Sheep and goats

- Scrapie Prevention Program: USDA program aimed at disease eradication and specific records are required to be kept
- “Scrapie tags” are used as official individual USDA ID
- Premises Identification Number (PIN) required to be assigned or sold Scrapie tags; Available for free from MDAR
- Breeding flocks should be assigned a Flock Number by the USDA Scrapie Prevention Program
 - New flocks can receive 100 free tags with this number from the USDA
- Limited numbers of state-specific tags are currently free through MDAR (small producers, veterinarians) or USDA (Producer-specific tags)
- Small ruminants tagged with plastic (white) or metal (orange or white) may move interstate with a CVI or may move to a MA premises from a MA market if were consigned from a MA premises



Equine Individual Identification

Horses, Mules, Donkeys

- 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, including color, markings, whorls, etc., and photos of the horse may be used as ID for CVIs or EIA (Coggins) tests



Individual ID for Camelids

- Microchips are individual ID for llamas, alpacas, and dromedary camels
- Owners must be able to provide microchip readers
- Ear tags, including RFID, may be used, but USDA has not designated any form of ID as “official” for domestic camelids

Rabbits

- Registry-issued tattoo numbers applied to the ear are considered ID for rabbits for CVIs
- 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)

Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs)

- MA will provide multi-part CVI forms to MA-accredited veterinarian for livestock, equines, and companion animals until current supplies run out. Contact Elsie Colon at elsie.colon@mass.gov
- MA accredited veterinarians may issue electronic CVIs from Global Vet Link, VetSentry, and VSPS as of November 1, 2024. Additional approvals are expected.
- The APHIS 7001 form is not permitted for either imports to or exports from MA

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

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Division of Animal Health

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