

Official Identification Required for Swine Exhibition

All pigs that will be shown at fairs, shows or exhibitions must have official individual animal identification, similar to cattle and sheep.



By: Beth Ferry, Michigan State University Extension

Exhibitions are right around the corner for many youth with swine projects in the state of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has asked that all pigs that are exhibited have official individual animal identification, similar to other species including cattle and sheep. This will allow the swine species to comply with Public Act 466 of the Animal Industry Act and have them meet the stated guidelines within the act. By implementing this procedure,

swine exhibitors and the state will be better prepared to respond to disease challenges by allowing for more complete traceability.

Included on the approved list of official ID tags is:

USDA 840 tags for swine - These types of tags have a unique 15-digit number beginning with 840 and bear the U.S. shield. A Premises Identification Number (PIN) is required to purchase '840' tags from the USDA approved suppliers- where they come in a variety of colors.

Metal NUES tags - Metal National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are available through MDARD at no cost. These tags include a non-repeatable number etched on them.

Plastic NUES tags - The plastic National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are only available for fairs to order as a group. MDARD will provide these tags for fairs at no cost. A non-repeatable number is printed on the tags.

It is important to note that only fairs can order the plastic NUES tags as a bulk order. The fair will then be required to complete corresponding paperwork, including exhibitor name and address linked to each tag.

Official ID is also needed for animals exhibited at jackpots and state shows. The exhibitor is responsible for acquiring either a USDA 840 tag or ordering a metal NUES tag from MDARD.

An option that is currently being phased out by the federal government is "900 series" tags (*see below*). For 2015 if they are used before March 11 they are considered acceptable.

Communication pieces for 2015 are currently being developed. To contact MDARD for your premise ID number or order NUES tags call (800) 292-3939, and if you have questions regarding official swine ID please contact a member of the Michigan State University Extension pork team, or MPPA at 517-853-3782, sprague@mipork.org.

Can I use this tag?

YES



NUES Tag



Plastic tags are preferred for swine due to the need to minimize animal stress and handling.



NO

PIN Tag

PIN Tags do not have a unique non-repeatable number on them.

YES



840 Tag

**ONLY IF USED
BEFORE
3/11/2015**

**900
Series
Tag**



This tag is being phased out because it does not bear a US shield.