

Michigan RFID Education Task Force



Mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) of Cattle in Michigan

Quick Facts



Starting March 1, 2007, **ALL CATTLE*** must be identified with an official** radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag prior to movement from a Michigan premises. Mandatory RFID in Michigan is driven by the bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication program in an effort to elevate the state's TB status. The premises and animal identification requirements are consistent with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) under development.

- As of March 1, 2007, metal ear tags will no longer be acceptable as official identification for cattle in Michigan.*
- All cattle moving to a show, sale or exhibition on or after March 1, 2007, are required to have an official RFID ear tag. This includes all out-of-state cattle exhibited in Michigan.
- Producers must be assigned a premises identification number before ordering official RFID ear tags.
- Any official RFID ear tags delivered to a premises are assigned to that premises for traceability. Producers are responsible to not sell or give away any tags that are assigned to their premises.
- Official RFID ear tags should never be removed from the animal except at harvest and should never be reused.
- If an official RFID ear tag is lost and it is necessary to retag an animal with a new official number (assigned to that premises), every effort should be made to correlate the new official number with the previous official number of the animal. A paper or computerized copy of this change should be kept on file at the animal's premises.





- Producers should order an applicator when ordering tags for the first time because the applicator is specific to RFID ear tags.
- The official ear tag site is in the left ear of the animal. The left ear is on the left side of the animal when it is viewed from behind.
- Producers are not required to electronically read or record RFID ear tag numbers. However, producers are encouraged to keep a paper or computerized record of the RFID ear tag number (printed both on the front and the back of the tag) along with the visual management number of each animal.

Producers need to contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture at (866) 870-5136 for premises registration, ear tag and applicator orders, or call (517) 373-1077 for more information.

For other fact sheets in this series, go to: www.michigananimalid.com.

*The *only* exceptions to this mandate are:

- 1) Steers and/or spayed heifers purchased out of state and fed in Michigan can move directly to harvest without official RFID tags. However, these cattle should be tagged with metal tags to reduce the risk of lengthy quarantine if there is an animal traceback to the feedlot. All sexually intact feeder cattle — heifers and bulls — will be required to have official RFID tags before movement from their Michigan premises.
- 2) Cattle that are harvested for personal consumption only if they move directly from the Michigan premises to a harvest facility.

**An official RFID ear tag is one approved by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and associated with a premises identification number assigned by the MDA.

Author:

Kevin Kirk, Michigan Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Michigan RFID Education Task Force. (MSU Contact: Dan Buskirk*)

Task Force Members:

Michigan RFID Education Task Force
www.michigananimalid.com

***Michigan State University Extension**
Department of Animal Science
517-355-8383

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry Division
517-373-1077

Michigan Cattlemen's Association
517-347-8117

Michigan Milk Producers Association
248-474-6672

Michigan Farm Bureau
Commodity and Marketing Department
800-292-2680



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity institution. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. • Issued in furtherance of Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Extension director, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.