

**TN**Department of
Agriculture

Animal Disease Traceability Rule Update 2024

The United States Department of Agriculture has released a new Animal Disease Traceability Rule to take effect November 5, 2024. Traceability enables animal health officials to know where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they have been, when they were there, and what other animals may have been exposed. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps to reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduce the time needed to respond, and ultimately reduce the cost to livestock producers.

Electronic Identification (EID)

Individual official Electronic Identification (EID) ear tags are required for cattle and bison crossing state lines. The tags must be visually AND electronically readable.

Animals Required to Have EID Tags Before Crossing State Lines

- All sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or over.
- All female dairy cattle of any age and all male dairy cattle* born after March 11, 2013.
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeos, recreational events, shows, and/or exhibitions.



Tennessee producers and veterinarians can order free EID tags by calling or emailing the Tennessee State Veterinarian's office.

State Veterinarian's Office

(615) 837-5120 | animal.health@tn.gov
P.O. Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37220



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Individual Official Electronic Identification Records Requirements

- Records must be maintained for 5 years.
- Records must be sent to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture electronically or via postal mail.
- Responsible person must submit to APHIS all reports and notices containing the information specified within 48 hours of request for records.

The Animal Identification Management System (AIMS) is a web-based information system that can be used to maintain individual official electronic identification records.

National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)

National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags may no longer be applied to cattle and bison for interstate movement after November 5, 2024. Prior to that date, for cattle already tagged with a NUES tag (also known as a metal or “brite” tag), the NUES tag will be acceptable for interstate movement for the duration of the animal’s life.



Frequently Asked Questions

What animals will be impacted by the new EID rule?

The current animal disease traceability (ADT) rule covers all sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or older (which excludes most feeder cattle), all dairy cattle of any age, and all cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational events. The current ADT rule only applies to the interstate movement of covered classes of cattle and bison. The new EID rule will apply to the same covered classes of cattle and bison moving interstate.

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

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 the rule is effective will be considered official identification for the lifetime of the animal.

Under this ADT regulation, what do I need to move my livestock interstate?

Unless specifically exempted, covered livestock moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other documentation agreed upon

by the shipping and receiving states (such as an owner-shipper statement or a brand inspection certificate). The regulations define approved methods of official identification for each species.

What will be done to keep my information confidential?

These regulations uphold and build on existing TDA and USDA disease program regulations, under which confidentiality has always been maintained. There are provisions in the law for the protection of confidential producer data held by USDA. Producer information gathered by TDA and USDA through animal disease traceability efforts is treated as information maintained under existing disease program regulations and, therefore, is exempt from provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

What happens if my animal loses its official identification eartag or other device?

If an animal loses its official eartag and needs a new one, the person applying the new one would have to record the following information and maintain the following information for five years:

- Date the new official identification device was added;
- Official identification number on the new device; and
- Official identification number on the old device, if known. This recordkeeping requirement will aid State, Tribal, and Federal officials when it is necessary to trace animals.

Revised Dairy Cattle Definition*

All cattle, regardless of age or sex, breed, or current use, that are born on a dairy farm or of a breed(s) used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption, or crossbred calves of any breed that are born to dairy cattle including, but not limited to, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and Whites are considered dairy cattle.

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