



CATTLE ID REQUIREMENT SUMMARY

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has updated the rules for tagging cattle that are moving across state lines. Since 2013, cattle have been required to have an official form of identification. This can include brands, tattoos, group ID numbers, metal ear tags, or electronic ear tags (EIDs). As of November 5, 2024, if you are using ear tags as the official ID, they must be both visually and electronically readable. Other forms of official ID, such as brands, tattoos, and group ID numbers, are still acceptable.

What is an EID Tag?

An EID tag is encoded with a 15-digit number that is specific to that animal. This tag is readable both visually and electronically.



The only data points that are collected about these tags is kept in the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's database and includes: contact information of person receiving the tags, contact information of the person distributing the tag, and the date of distribution. This information is used for animal disease tracing.

Additional Facts

If your cattle already have a metal clip tag, you do not need to apply for a new tag. Only cattle tagged after November 5, 2024, will require an EID tag. This does not apply to feeder calves.

You can contact us for assistance and learn more by using the ► **QR code**. Your veterinarian can also assist with tagging your animals and getting certificates of veterinary inspection.

What Classes of Cattle Are Included?

- **Beef Cattle:** Sexually intact beef cattle (18 months or older) that are not moving directly to slaughter must have official identification to move interstate or through an Arkansas livestock market. This applies to bison as well.
- **Dairy Cattle:** Dairy breed cattle of any age, including crossbred cattle, must have official identification to move interstate or through an Arkansas livestock market.
- **Slaughter Cattle:** May move directly to a recognized slaughter establishment with a USDA-approved back tag. From an Arkansas slaughter only sale.

For More Information about EID Tagging

(501) 225-1598 | info@agriculture.arkansas.gov



Arkansas Department of Agriculture:
<https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry/>



USDA Resources:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/traceability>