



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2024

TO: Iowa Licensed Veterinarians & Businesses

FROM: Dr. Jeff Kaisand, State Veterinarian

RE: Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison

On May 9, 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a final rule to improve animal disease traceability (ADT) for cattle and bison. **The rule will go into effect on November 5, 2024** and can be found at this link:

[https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/09/2024-09717/use-of-electronic-identification-eartags-as-official-identification-in-cattle-and-bison.](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/09/2024-09717/use-of-electronic-identification-eartags-as-official-identification-in-cattle-and-bison)

This final rule requires Official identification (ID) ear tags that are electronically and visually readable be used for the interstate movement of:

- Sexually intact cattle and bison that are 18 months or older
- All dairy cattle
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, recreation, shows, or exhibitions

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) currently issues metal identification tags, including calfhood orange vaccination tags and large silver bright tags, for use in cattle and bison. **As of October 1, 2024, these tags will no longer be distributed through our office.**

Official electronic identification (EID) tags are available for veterinarians and producers through IDALS. For more information, please visit our website: <https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-bureau/veterinary-resources>.

Any questions regarding this matter can be directed to the IDALS Animal Industry Division at 515-281-5305.

Jeffrey J. Kaisand, D.V.M.
State Veterinarian
Animal Industry Division