



## Notice for New York Cattle Producers

Beginning November 5, 2024, there will be only one USDA-official tag type approved for cattle. [USDA's final rule](#) for cattle ID requires all official tags applied to cattle after November 5, 2024 to be both RFID and visually readable. [Read frequently asked questions about the final rule here.](#) This means that New York State will no longer be supplying silver metal National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES or 'brite') tags for use in cattle or swine when our current supply is finished. We expect to run out of our current tags in late October, 2024.

### ***What does this mean for you as a producer?***

If you apply eartags as official identification to cattle, you need to use RFID tags starting November 5, 2024. Cattle born in the USA will need 840 eartags.

### ***What are RFID tags?***

RFID tags are electronic identification tags that can be scanned from a distance, as well as read visually. They come in several different shapes, all of which are RFID capable. They all have 15-digit identification numbers, which are printed on them and may also be read electronically. RFID tags may also have a bangle with a shorter management number on them. Limited supplies are available from The Department of Agriculture and Markets for free (the white and orange button type seen below) or they can be privately ordered, customized, and purchased through approved tag manufacturers (the yellow type seen below).



### ***Do all cattle need official eartags?***

The new USDA final rule does not change which cattle receive official eartags; it only changes which eartags that are considered official. If you do not currently need official tags in your cattle, they still do not require official tags.

Some examples of cattle that currently require official identification: cattle going to a livestock dealer or through a market, cattle moving out of state on a CVI, cattle coming to your New York farm, all animals traveling to a New York sponsored fair. Please note that this includes all young calves that arrive at markets for sale as feeders (which currently are receiving little metal tags at markets).

### ***What about cattle that already have a NUES or other official eartag?***

All cattle (including dairy, beef, heifers, and steers) that already have a NUES tag or another grandfathered form of official ID in their ear by November 5, 2024, will be considered officially tagged for life. These cattle will not require an RFID-capable 840 tag applied. You can choose to add an 840 RFID tag to them, but it is not required. Grandfathered tags (i.e. – 12-digit F.A.I.R. tags, truncated AIN tags, tags starting with 982- or 985-) applied before March 11, 2015, will also continue to be considered official ID for the animals that have them.



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The aforementioned tags applied after March 11, 2015, and any NUES tags applied after November 5, 2024, will not be considered official identification.

### **What if I choose to sell cattle without official eartags as slaughter-only animals?**

Not putting an official identification on these animals restricts who can buy them.

At auction, or off the farm, these animals must be sold to an USDA-recognized slaughter facility per federal requirements. The yellow slaughter-only tag will be applied to the animals as identification to allow traceback.



### **What should you do with your old silver metal or white plastic NUES tags or non-RFID 15-digit tags that are no longer official in cattle if applied after November 5, 2024?**

You can return those tags to the Department. You can also continue to use them as official tags in deer. They may also be used in swine, although the Department recommends using 840 RFID tags in swine as well as cattle.



### **How do I tell if my 840 tags are RFID capable?**

Visual-only 840 tags can look very similar to tags that have an RFID capability. The images below show an RFID tag on the left and a non-RFID on the right. If you cannot tell whether your tags are RFID capable, ask your veterinarian to test them with a reader.



### **How do I get 840 RFID tags?**

Producers will be able to request limited numbers of free 840 tags from the Department for as long as we have supplies in stock. This supply will be limited by premises, and will be dependent on our current supply and your anticipated annual usage.

Producers should reach out to the suppliers of 840 tags to order sufficient tags to cover their needs. You will be responsible for ordering these directly from a supplier. USDA lists all



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manufacturers online. Visit [vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/aims/AllProductNew.do](https://vsapps.aphis.usda.gov/aims/AllProductNew.do), choose “Program Approved,” and “Cattle” as the species to see a comprehensive list of manufacturers. Only RFID capable devices will be approved starting November 5, 2024.

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### ***Can I cut out a NUES or other official tag that was grandfathered in?***

No. New York State law (Article 5 § 95-a) prohibits removal of official ear tags or other identification without authorization by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

### ***What about brucellosis tags for cattle?***

Orange metal NUES tags, as seen below, are the approved Brucellosis tags per USDA. However, these will not be considered official ID if applied after November 5, 2024.



### ***What do I do about Canadian cows that lose their tags?***

If you have cattle that have been imported from Canada or Mexico that lose their official ID (aka 124 or 484 tag), you can obtain replacement tags from the Department or from your local Category 2 accredited veterinarian. These tags are green-blue bicolor, have “IMP” on them, and begin with ‘964’ as seen below. These tags may only be applied to foreign-born animals that have lost their original ID. You will be required to record the original animal ID and replacement ID and keep this information for traceback for at least five years per [9 CFR 86.3](#). We are happy to provide assistance with record management if you need these tags.

Do not put 840 RFID tags into cattle born in another country. Do not apply these bicolor tags to cattle born in the USA.



### ***Can I still order NUES tags for my market?***

No. We will no longer carry these tags. They cannot be independently printed.

### ***Can state metal tags still be used in pigs?***

Yes.



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### ***Can 840 tags made for cattle be used in sheep, lamb, and goats?***

No. Do NOT use cattle RFID tags on small ruminants. These animals have their own RFID tags.

### **Can backtags still be used?**

Yes, backtags can still be used, but only on cattle that are going direct to a USDA inspected slaughter facility. All other cattle that need official identification must be identified with an 840 RFID tag.

### **What about the large bulls that go to slaughter?**

They can go direct to slaughter on a USDA backtag.

### **What is the monthly limit for our farm on RFID tags from the State?**

The limit depends on what your current monthly cattle volume is. Please reach out to Dr. Rebecca Mitchell directly at [Rebecca.Mitchell@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Mitchell@agriculture.ny.gov) to learn more. Our objective is to make sure everyone has access to this resource at the same scale relative to business done. There is a maximum per month as well.

### ***Is the State also notifying dealers and veterinarians that they will need to use 840 RFID tags as of November 5, 2024?***

The State is conducting outreach to stakeholders through multiple platforms. Please feel free to give our outreach information to any producers that have questions.

### ***Where can I go to learn more about official identification types for cattle?***

Please reach out to go over this information with us directly: email [Rebecca.Mitchell@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Mitchell@agriculture.ny.gov) or call (518) 457-4066.



2024 Producer Tag Order Form

Please allow at least 2 weeks for processing

840 RFID Button Tags

- 15-digit, official, USDA-approved tags for US born animals
Only 1 unique 15-digit number should be assigned to each animal
Approved for cattle, deer, swine
Approved official 840 RFID tags can come in many colors, sizes and styles. They must meet the following criteria:
1. US Shield 2. a 15-digit number starting with '840'
3. Tamper proof for one time use 4. Bear the manufacturer's logo
5. Say "Unlawful to Remove" on tag 6. Contain RFID chip



- Amount of Tags Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ tags (min 10, max 1000/month)
RFID Tag Applicator Requested: Y / N

Option for DEER ONLY

- 21D-series official metal NUES tags — for farmed deer owners only
Amount of boxes of 21D Tags Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ box (100 tags / box)
Tag applicators for metal 21D NUES tags are available from Ketchum Mfg. Co., Inc., plier #307 or #308 or various vendors.



Scrapie tags for sheep and goats

- Please contact USDA at 1-866-USDA-Tag (866-873-2824) or VS.NYScrapieTags@usda.gov

- Is this your first order from our office? Y / N
Has your information recently changed? Y / N



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### Agreement with Receipt of Tags:

- ◆ These eartags are for use only at the premises below and may not be redistributed, shared, sold or traded to other producers.
- ◆ A record of eartag use must be kept for 5 years after eartags are applied. A spreadsheet will be provided with your tag order to assist in record keeping.
- ◆ Generally only 1 official ear tag is permitted for cattle.

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address (No P.O. Boxes): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Demographic Information Used for USDA Cooperative Agreement Reporting  
(please check one box per category):

- African American  Native American  Other  I prefer not to say
- With disabilities  Without disabilities  I prefer not to say
- Male  Female  Other  I prefer not to say

Producer Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature indicates that you accept the terms of use and distribution of these tags (see above). A producer-signed order form is required for each tag order from one farm, including any tag reorders. To receive your free ear tags, please complete this form and send it in by one of the following ways:

- ◆ **FAX:** 518-485-7773
- ◆ **Email:** [daisupplies@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:daisupplies@agriculture.ny.gov)
- ◆ **Mail:** NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets  
Division of Animal Industry  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Date Shipped: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_