

General Instructions and Important Points – Veterinarian

Tag Distribution

- Tags may **only** be distributed to producers that have an official premise identification number. These tags are to be used **only** for that producer's animals; stress the importance of this to the producer.
- If a producer wishes to receive tags but doesn't have an official premise identification number, he or she may contact Shelly Lantz at the WVDA Guthrie office (304-558-2214) to obtain one.
- Ensure that the tags that you distribute to the producer are the appropriate tags that he or she requires. A specific sale might require a specific type of tag so the producer will need to meet those requirements.

Tag Placement

- RFID tags (840 tags) are to be placed in the left ear, one per animal. Each tag should be placed in the middle third of the ear, between the upper and lower ribs of cartilage. The button (female portion) of the tag should go inside the ear, and the male portion of the tag should pierce the ear from the back. Pictured below is the paired visual and button tag set (visual tags are optional for the producer).



- Metal tags (silver, "brite" or NUES tags) may be placed in either ear, one per animal. Each tag should be clipped onto the upper edge of the ear close to the base.



- Brucellosis Official Calfhood Vaccinate (OCV) tags (orange metal tags or orange 840 tags) should be placed in the right ear only, one per animal. A metal tag should be clipped onto the upper edge of the ear close to the base; a RFID tag should be placed in the middle third of the ear, between the upper and lower ribs or cartilage.
 - Brucellosis Official Calfhood Vaccinate (OCV) tags may **only** be placed in **West Virginia cattle!**



Once the tags are placed –

- Any accredited veterinarian who distributes official identification devices must maintain for 5 years a record of the names and addresses of anyone to whom the devices were distributed.
- The accredited veterinarian issuing an ICVI (Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) or other document required for the interstate movement of animals must forward a copy of the ICVI or other document to the State animal health official of the State of origin within 7 calendar days from the date on which the ICVI or other document is issued. The address for the WVDA Animal Health Division is 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305.
- Metals tags that are distributed must be reported to Shelly Lantz, 304-558-2214, slantz@wvda.us. For example, if you distribute 100 NUES tags to Mr. Smith (premise ID XXXXX) you would inform Mrs. Lantz that you provided tags 54VJE001 – 54VJE100 to premise ID XXXXX.
- RFID tags that are distributed must be reported to Jayme Zirkle, Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator, WVDA (office 304-269-0598, cell 304-644-7361, jzirkle@wvda.us). For example, if you distribute 100 840 tags to Mr. Smith (premise ID XXXXX) you would inform Mrs. Zirkle that you provided tags 840003123456700 - 840003123456799 to premise ID XXXXX.
 - Mrs. Lantz and Ms. Zirkle must receive all of this data before the tags can be re-allocated to the producer. If all of the information isn't provided and they must trace the tag, they will trace it back to the individual to whom the department first distributed the tags (**you!**).
- The producer should be encouraged to keep excellent herd records so that he or she can identify which official identification tag was placed in each animal. This is important in the event of a disease trace so that movements of each individual animal can be apparent.

Questions

- If you have any questions about official premise identification numbers, please contact Shelly Lantz at 304-558-2214.
- If you have any questions about ADT, please call Jayme Zirkle at 304-644-7361.
- If you need more tags, please call the Guthrie office at 304-558-2214 and ask to speak with Greg in the laboratory.