



The Future is Electronic: Are you Ready?

For years, veterinarians practicing regulatory work have used metal NUES tags and metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags. As the cattle industry progresses so does the technology used in routine operations.

Utilizing electronic identification (ID) in a veterinary practice provides a more robust and efficient way to collect, store, and share data.



Ordering Tags

1. Call the TAHC Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Department and be assigned a Premises ID Number (PIN) or Non-Producer Participant Number (NPN)
2. Order your Radio Frequency ID (RFID) tags using your assigned ID number through a USDA approved tag manufacturer/distributor. Contact TAHC ADT Department if you have questions or need guidance.

Application



You will need RFID tags & application pliers for applying tags in animals ears. Coordinate with the tag manufacturer for appropriate tools.

RFID tags should be placed in the inner one-third of the left or right ear between any of the cartilages. The preferred placement of the RFID tag is in the left ear under the top downward fold of the ear. This location will ensure the tag will not be caught and torn from the animals ear and the calf-hood vaccination tattoo is not covered.



The Future is Electronic: Are you Ready?

Use

After applying the RFID tag, you will need a RFID reader, PDA, and the free Mobile Information Management (MIM) program downloaded to your PDA device.

Once the tag is applied, you will read the RFID tag with your preferred reader and then enter identifying information on the PDA. Information includes, but is not limited to: breed, age, vaccination tattoo, additional notes, and the animals official metal ID tag information if applicable.

If the animals already has official ID:

If the animal already has a RFID tag, you should not reapply one. You will read/record the tag number with your reader and depending on the work you are conducting, enter data fields into the PDA device.

If the animal has a metal tag, you need to apply a RFID tag and record the metal tag number on the PDA - linking the RFID to the metal tag. **DO NOT REMOVE ANY FORM OF OFFICIAL ID.**



Data Share



You will need a computer, tablet, or other device to connect and upload information from the PDA to a compatible program.

There is FREE software available for download called the Mobile Information Management (MIM) program. With the click of a few buttons, all the data will be transferred from the PDA to the MIM program.

The MIM program can generate test charts, permits, forms, excel spreadsheets, and assist in record retention. Records must be kept for 5 years.

To download the MIM program to your PDA and computer, email the USDA MIM staff at mim.training.network@usda.gov, or contact your TAHC region office.

RFID Progression

Texas veterinarians conducting regulatory work can sign up to be official AIN device managers (RFID tag allocators) with the TAHC ADT Dept. AIN device managers can receive up to 100 free RFID tags from the TAHC, and are responsible for distributing RFID tags to local producers for application. For more information and questions contact the TAHC ADT Dept.

To keep up with the projected transition to RFID tags, and the various USDA and TAHC transition incentive programs visit https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_Traceability and <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/adt/>.

**Contact TAHC Animal Disease Traceability Department at
animal_id@tahc.texas.gov or 512-719-0733.**