

The New Animal Disease Traceability Rule and Official ID for Cattle: Guidelines for Large Animal Practitioners in Virginia

The USDA Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Rule became effective on March 11, 2013. The new regulation primarily affects livestock moving through interstate commerce, but will require changes in the use of official identification devices for regulatory disease programs as well.

All cattle vaccinated or tested under regulatory disease programs should be tagged with official ID. At least one form of official ID must be recorded for each animal on all regulatory disease forms. This includes forms submitted for brucellosis vaccination, brucellosis testing and tuberculosis testing. Official ID must also be listed on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for all adult cattle (excludes feeder calves under 18 months of age). Farm ID tags, animal names, breed registry tattoos and other non-official forms of identification may be included on regulatory forms, but at least one form of official ID is required.

Official Identification Devices Used in Virginia

- ◆ 840-series visual or RFID tags (RFID preferred for all classes of cattle and all purposes)
- ◆ Metal silver or “brite” tags (52-series in Virginia)
- ◆ Metal orange “Bangs” tags (52V-series in Virginia)
- ◆ Manufacturer-coded tags, 15-digit tags (9xx-series) until March 2015
- ◆ American ID (FAIR or DHIA tags) will also be accepted on vaccination and test forms in Virginia until March 2015. However, these tags should not be used as the only official ID for adult cattle moving interstate.
- ◆ Records must be kept on the distribution of all official ID tags for 5 years.

Practitioners should begin transitioning to the use of official ID on regulatory documents as soon as possible. Official ID tags are available from VDACS at no cost as long as funds are available. For additional information, please contact the VDACS Office of Veterinary Services at (804) 786-2483 or send an email to tags@vdacs.virginia.gov.

