



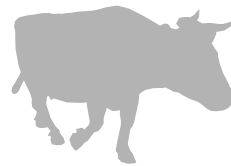
USDA Mandates RFID – Fact Sheet



Metal ear tags will not be provided after **12/31/2019**.



Metal ear tags will no longer be produced after **1/1/2021**.



Metal ear tags cannot be used as official identification after **1/1/2021**.



RFID ear tags will be required as official identification after **1/1/2023**.

- Animals covered under this mandate include:
 - Beef Cattle & Bison that are either – sexually intact and 18 months or older, used for rodeo or recreational events at any age, and used for exhibition and event.
 - Dairy Cattle that are either – Female cattle, or Male cattle born after **3/11/2013**.
- The type of RFID frequency depends on the state, producer, or industry.
- All RFID ear tags must be approved by the USDA.
- All RFID ear tags must meet standards for quality and performance, be tamper proof, contain a unique ID, and display the U.S. official ear tag shield (1).
- RFID ear tags must contain visual identification, such as the ID number and official ear tag shield.
- RFID ear tags should be attached at time of birth or before interstate travel.
- The USDA and State governments have agreed to work together to share some of the cost of RFID ear tags to lessen the burden on farmers/producers.
- The USDA and State governments have agreed to work together to provide funding for RFID readers/systems for markets and certified veterinarians.
- The USDA is planning to improve current government systems for RFID tag distribution, tracking, and record keeping.
- The USDA is planning to provide support during the transition to RFID tagging.

(1) https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/traceability.pdf