



# Animal Health Notes

*January 17, 2019*

## **Federal Government Shutdown and Official Tags**

Due to the ongoing lapse in Federal Government funding, the SD office of the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services is not open, and is not processing requests for official identification tags. Please direct requests for orange National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags for OCV (Bang's tags), the silver "brite" NUES tags, and scrapie tags to the SD AIB 605.773.3321 as we will be able to fill orders. AIN ("840") tags may also be used for official identification, including for brucellosis vaccination, and are available at most livestock supply companies.

Since the duration of the shutdown is unknown, and also considering that USDA has announced their plan to phase out the distribution of the NUES tags, this may be an opportune time to start using AIN "840" tags when official ID is required. Please see the attached document for information on ordering and distributing AIN tags: AIN "840" Tag Distribution Guidance.

## **Premises Identification is Important**

A Premises Identification Number (PIN) is a unique confidential code used by state and federal government to identify a location where livestock are raised, housed or located. It is part of a complete traceability system, which helps our agency's mission of disease control and surveillance. PINs are private information and only used internally.

Obtain your premises identification number to support disease surveillance and response activities along with trade and consumer confidence in a safe food supply. [Click this link to register through the Board's website.](#)

## **Prepare Your Business before a Disease Outbreak**

The Secure Food Supply plans are voluntary initiatives to provide livestock producers with a workable continuity of business plan in the event of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak. In the event of a FAD outbreak, movement of livestock will be restricted. In order to maintain continuity of business it will be critical for producers to be able to move livestock to the next stage of production or to market. Preparing for such an event by participating in a Secure Food Supply plan offers producers the best opportunity to move their stock.

On farm biosecurity practices and enhanced biosecurity protocols are the basis for these plans. Veterinarians will be valuable resources in developing site specific biosecurity plans. More information about the plans can be found on the [Center for Food Security & Public Health's website.](#)

Producers wanting to prepare for an outbreak and participate in one of the continuity of business plans should:

1. Familiarize themselves with and review the appropriate commodity plan
2. Obtain a Premises Identification Number (PIN) or validate their PIN
3. Work with their veterinarian to build or further develop their biosecurity processes to meet the standards in the plan
4. Implement routine biosecurity processes and exercise enhanced biosecurity processes

Enroll in the program by having a licensed, accredited veterinarian complete the biosecurity checklist and SD Secure Food Supply Plan Participant enrollment form and submit them to the SD AIB.

## **Tuberculin Orders – Shipped Direct From NVSL**

SDAIB has historically distributed tuberculin to accredited veterinarians as needed. In order to reduce shipping costs and in-transit time, please order tuberculin directly from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL). See "Tuberculin Ordering Tips" (attached) for more information. NVSL continues to accept and fill Tuberculin orders despite the lack of federal funding.