

USDA Animal Disease Traceability Bulletin for Accredited Veterinarians working on cattle and bison

On January 31st, USDA will begin offering the option of free Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) “840” tags as an alternative to the free metal “Brite” and metal orange Official Calhhood Vaccination (OCV) tags supplied to States for cattle and bison. The metal tags will continue to be available at no charge as well. The “Brite” tag option will be an RFID low frequency white button tag, and the OCV option will be an orange RFID low frequency button imprinted with “OCV”. Neither of these tags will have a state-specific code. Orange metal or orange RFID OCV tags may only be used by accredited veterinarians for brucellosis vaccination. The white RFID “840” tags that USDA provides are targeted for use in replacement cattle that are not brucellosis vaccinates.

The process for you to order RFID tags from the state will be the same as you use for metal tags: states may establish limits on numbers available or other criteria for distribution. Official “840” RFID are also available for purchase from vendors. Supplies of tags and delivery is dependent on the production rate that the tag manufactures can produce the required volume of tags. Therefore, there may be a temporary delay to filling orders.

A PIN (Premises ID Number – Federal based number), NPN (Non-Producer Number – Federal based number), or LID (Location ID – State based number) is required to receive RFID official ID tags. Accredited veterinarians may apply the tags to client animals but must keep readily accessible records for 5 years. You may not sell or redistribute official ID tags without appropriate record keeping and approval from USDA or your state official. PIN, NPN, or LID’s are acquired through the State veterinarian’s office. (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/traceability/state-pin>)

Veterinarians may record tag numbers from cattle or bison with RFID tags by either transcribing manually or reading electronically with any standard low frequency tag reader for entry to test or health papers. All “840” tags are acceptable as official identification for cattle that are required to have official ID.

If you have any questions, you can contact your Area Veterinarian in Charge, found here: [Contact My Area Veterinarian in Charge \(AVIC\)](#) or your State Veterinarian.

Thank you for the work you do as an accredited veterinarian.

Sincerely,

Aaron Scott DVM PhD DACVPM (epidemiology)

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