April 19, 2019

New York County and State Fair Exhibitors, Veterinarians, and Fair Officials:

This year I proposed to require RFID tags for identifying cattle and swine exhibiting at county fairs and the New York State Fair. My staff and I advised exhibitors, fair managers and others about this starting in January and at the same time, we made a supply of RFID tags available to exhibitors at no cost. The response to these announcements was much greater than we expected, and we exhausted our supply of RFID tags.

Due to this and other concerns, the Department of Agriculture and Markets decided that we should delay the requirement for RFID tags until the 2020 fair season. Cattle and swine exhibitors for all New York county fairs and the New York State Fair may use the same types of official ID as were accepted in 2018.

Acceptable tag types include:
- National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES) tags or "21" metal tags
- Official Animal Identification Number tags – these may be visual-only or RFID
- Breed association tags applied to livestock BEFORE March 11, 2015

Please see the following pages for examples of acceptable identification.

For this year, official non-RFID tags will be accepted for cattle and swine identification.

Sincerely,

David C. Smith, DVM
Director, Division of Animal Industry

Approved Cattle Identification for Fairs in New York

The two cattle ear tag numbering systems approved for use by USDA for cattle tagged after March 11, 2015:

1. **National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES) tags**- These are the familiar "21" tags. Metal tags are available to veterinarians and will be sent upon request to individual producers. The orange tags put it when cattle are vaccinated for Brucellosis by an accredited veterinarian are also approved NUES tags. Plastic NUES tags are available on request to individual producers.

Producer

Vet

Brucellosis Vaccinated

2. **Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags**- These are 15 digit numeric tags with the first three digits indicating the country of origin (**'840'** for USA, '124' for Canada). The round (button) RFID tags have the best retention of any eartag. The entire 15 digit number must be recorded on all official documents. They can be used for official identification for all purposes.

The following forms of identification are official <u>ONLY IF APPLIED PRIOR TO MARCH 11, 2015.</u>

Animals with breed association or manufacturer tags applied after this date will have their health papers <u>rejected</u> at NY Fairs and Shows.

15-digit 985 series tag

Breed Association tag

15-digit 982 series tag

FAIR, NYHO tag

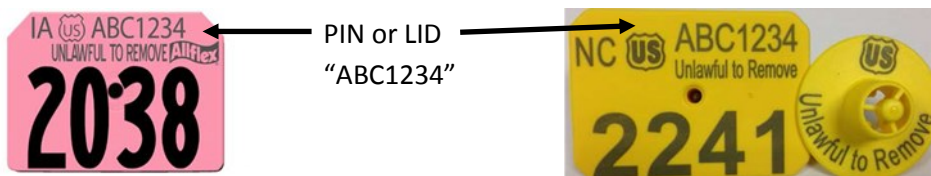# Identification Options for Swine in New York State

New York State requires identification for swine prior to interstate movement, upon arrival at a livestock market or dealer or if exhibited at county and state fairs. The following tags are identification options for swine in New York State. The person receiving the tags from the manufacturer or from the Division of Animal Industry must retain records of the tag usage for a period of two years after application (five years for AIN tags).

1. **Animal Identification Number (AIN) tags**- These are 15 digit numeric tags with the first three digits indicating the country of origin (**840** = USA, 124 = Canada). The round, button RFID tags have the best retention of any eartag. The entire 15 digit number must be recorded on all official documents. ***They can be used as official identification for all purposes. These will be accepted at the 2019 NY State and county fairs.***

Limited quantities available at the NY Dept of Agriculture

2. "**PIN**" tags - These tags have the producers' Federal Premises Identification Number (PIN) or state issued Location Identification Number (LID) and either a preprinted producer's livestock production number or a blank area for the producer's livestock production number. These can be used as slaughter tags, for interstate movement or sale. In New York we accept PIN tags with preprinted producer's livestock production numbers such as the examples shown below as official identification. These will be accepted at the 2019 NY State and county fairs.

PIN or LID
"ABC1234"

3. **NUES tags (plastic or metal)** are acceptable in swine. New York tags start with '21.' They are intended for market hogs within the United States. They are available to livestock markets, dealers (DAHP holders), veterinarians and producers. Both the retention and readability of these tags is poor. The metal tags can cause tissue irritation. NUES tags will be phased out in the next few years. These will be accepted at the 2019 NY State and county fairs.

Limited quantities available at the NY Dept of Agriculture

For more information on swine tags, please visit https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/traceability
There will be information on moving swine, different types of ID, tag manufacturers and other information.