

December 2015

Summary of cattle identification requirements in New York State:

Cattle moving **interstate** should be permanently identified with a USDA approved **ear tag** and should move with either an **owner-shipper statement (OSS)**, previously called a waybill) or an **interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI)**, also called health papers).

The only USDA approved ear tags for cattle tagged after March 11, 2015 use one of two numbering systems:

- **National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES) tags-** These are the familiar “21” tags. These tags are available to livestock markets and cattle dealers 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. More information can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_nues.pdf



- **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). There are a number of manufacturers producing all shapes and size tags with or without the small, round, white or yellow radio frequency identification device (RFID) microchip. Until March 11, 2015, older AIN tags without the numeric country code (e.g. 900, 945 or USA tags) were allowed to be placed in cattle and will be considered an approved ear tag for the life of the animal; Do NOT place a new approved tag in cattle which still have one of these tags which were placed before March 11, 2015. **As of March 11, 2015 only AINs starting with '840' are considered official if placed in U.S. origin cattle. Cattle born outside the U.S. may not be identified with an '840' AIN.** http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_ain.pdf

Exceptions: The following may be moved interstate without a USDA approved ear tag:

- Cattle moving interstate directly to a recognized slaughter facility where they will be slaughtered within 3 days. However, these cattle must be wearing a USDA-issued back tag.
- Cattle moving to a tagging site approved by the state of destination. Generally, these are livestock markets and buying stations. **Animals moving through livestock markets in NY State are required to be ear tagged**, and some markets do charge producers to tag animals that do not come to the market with an approved tag.
- New York has made agreements with PA and VT to allow calves less than 14 days of age or 200 pounds to move interstate on an OSS without an ICVI.