Exhibition Swine Official ID

Frequently Asked Questions

Is official identification (ID) required for exhibition?

All swine being shown at exhibitions, including fairs, jackpot shows, birthing exhibits, and other events, are required by state law to have official ID in place. The exhibitor is responsible for having official ID in place, and the exhibition is responsible for verifying that all swine have official ID.

What is official ID?

Official ID is a tag imprinted with a nationally unique official animal ID number and bears the official U.S. route shield. The 840 tags, Premises Identification Number (PIN) tags, and National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are all official ID for exhibition swine.

What is an 840 Tag?

Official 840 tags have a unique 15-digit number beginning with 840 (U.S. country code). Official 840 tags come in two types: visual identification and radio-frequency identification (RFID, also called electronic identification or EID). Both of these types come in a variety of shapes and colors. To purchase 840 tags, you must have the national premises identification number (PIN) of the property where your animals are housed/where the tags will be used. To obtain your PIN, contact MDARD at 888-565-8626.

840 Tags

(This is one example. See next page for more)

What is a PIN Tag?

Official PIN tags have a seven-character national premises identification number (PIN) plus a unique animal ID number imprinted by the manufacturer. To purchase PIN tags, you must have the national premises identification number (PIN) of the property where your animals are housed/where the tags will be used. To obtain your PIN, contact MDARD at 888-565-8626.

PIN Tags

What is a NUES Tag?

Official NUES tag have a unique nine-character number beginning with a two-digit state code. Official NUES tags come in two types: metal and plastic.

NUES Tags

Official ID may not be shared with or transferred to another premises. It is illegal to remove official ID or to apply more than one official ID. Fairs may choose to apply non-official ID tags for management purposes.

What is the best strategy for an exhibitor to obtain an official ID?

Individual swine exhibitors are able to order official 840 RFID tags, with a minimum order of 20, at no cost when ordered at www.840swinetags.com. To order free tags, producers must provide a valid PIN, shipping and contact information, and the number of pigs on the premises. Need tags on short notice? Official 840 RFID tags may be purchased from local retailers and livestock markets across Michigan -- visit www.mi.gov/animalimport to find a location near you.

I have 840 RFID tags for my cattle. Can I use those in my pigs?

Maybe. Only some 840 RFID tags are approved for use in pigs, so check your tag type on the USDA's list of official RFID tag types (www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/adt-device-ain.pdf). If approved for pigs, the tags can be applied to exhibition swine on the same premises as your cattle.

Are breeders required to tag my pig before I buy it?

No. Breeders of show pigs are not legally required to apply official ID to pigs before sale. Breeders can order 840 RFID tags at no cost from www.840swinetags.com if they choose to tag pigs before selling them.

Can fairs place bulk orders of tags for exhibitors?

Yes. Fairs can order 840 RFID tags at no cost from www.840swinetags.com, allocate them to the exhibitors, and keep a required record.

What happens if an exhibition pig loses its official ID?

If an official ID tag is lost, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to re-tag the animal with another official ID tag and make sure that appropriate records are kept. Record of this would need to be maintained for five years to show the date the animal was re-tagged, the lost tag number, and the replacement tag number.

Examples of 840 Tags Approved for Use in Swine

Visual

RFID/EID

01-26

For more information on swine ID and exhibition, please visit www.canr.msu.edu/pork/swine-exhibition