

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. 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. Official 840 RFID tags are sold individually by local retailers and livestock markets across Michigan -- click [here](#) to find a location near you or visit www.mi.gov/animalimport.

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 tags have a unique nine-character number beginning with a two-digit state code. Official NUES tags come in two types: metal and plastic. MDARD is no longer providing NUES tags; however, fairs with NUES tags remaining from previous years may use them until their supply is depleted.

NUES Tags



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

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

Yes. As long as the 840 RFID tags are applied to animals on the same premises, the tags can be used in swine. However, with combo tags, only use the button portion.

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

No. Breeders are not legally required to apply official ID to pigs before sale. Breeders may opt to tag pigs with official ID; however, having official ID in place before exhibition is the exhibitor's responsibility.

Can fairs place bulk orders of tags for exhibitors?

No. USDA will not approve fairs to operate as approved tagging sites. This means that fairs are not allowed to use their premises identification number (PIN) to bulk order official ID tags for distribution and application.

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

Exhibitors should first contact their fair directly to determine if they have NUES tags available. If a fair does not have any remaining NUES tags to provide, exhibitors may choose to either purchase and apply their own official identification tags or purchase a pig that has already been tagged by the breeder.

What is required by MDARD when NUES tags are used?

If a fair still has a supply of NUES tags to use, they are required to record usage information on the electronic spreadsheet provided by MDARD when the NUES tags were issued. The fair is required to keep these records for five years and may be periodically audited by MDARD staff.

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. If a fair has a stock of NUES tags to provide, they could also re-tag the animal. Record of this would need to be maintained for five years by the exhibition 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

