

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

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2016 4-H Exhibitor Information Livestock Animal Identification (Full Version-Revised)

Overview

Maryland 4-H youth wishing to exhibit livestock during 2016 Maryland 4-H Fairs and Shows will need to have two forms of animal identification on their animal; each serves a different purpose.

- 1) A Maryland 4-H Tag – A Maryland 4-H Tag is required for the following animals for the purpose of 4-H project verification according to Maryland 4-H guidelines. (See Table 1)
 - a. Beef – Market Steers, Commercial Breeding Females
 - b. Dairy – Market Steers
 - c. Goats – Market Goats, Commercial Breeding Meat Breed Females
 - d. Sheep – Market Lambs, Commercial Breeding Females
 - e. Swine – Market Swine
- 2) An approved form of Official Identification – Official Identification is required for health verification according to 2016 Maryland Animal Health Fair and Show Requirements. Veterinarians completing Maryland CVIs must include official identification information on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
 - a. Swine: Recognized breed ear notches or tattoos will not be acceptable as official identification in Maryland exhibitions. Swine must have tags bearing official US identification.
 - b. Cattle: Brands or tattoos will not be acceptable as official identification in Maryland exhibitions for cattle. Animals must have a tag with official US identification
 - c. Sheep and Goats: All sheep and goats must be officially scrapie-identified. Official identification for sheep and goats include the following:
 - i. USDA-approved ear tags;
 - ii. Legible registration tattoos, for which the registration paper shall accompany the animals; or
 - iii. Legible tattoos consisting of an individual animal number unique within the flock in one ear and the official scrapie premise identification number (flock ID) in the other ear, except that the tail web or flank may be used for earless animals or animals with damaged ears and must be accompanied by an owner statement.

Maryland 4-H Tagging Policies

- Maryland 4-H Tags purchased by County Extension Offices from the State 4-H Office are the only accepted tags for 4-H project verification. Tags must be applied by 4-H Faculty/Staff or designated official.
- Animals should be tagged no later than two weeks of the ownership deadlines listed below as established for Maryland 4-H exhibition. Counties may establish tagging dates prior to the dates listed below.
- An animal may be tagged as either Commercial Breeding animal or Market animal, but not both. Commercial Breeding animals must have a copy of their tagging paperwork to present at 4-H show check-in.
- All animals of the same specie within a county should be weighed on the same scale. Certified scales should be used.
- All market animals must be castrated and healed before tagging.

Table 1: Maryland 4-H Livestock Tags

Specie - Animal	Ownership Date	4-H Tag Size/Color	Image
BEEF – Breeding Animals	July 1	Commercial Only – Large/Green	
BEEF – Steers	January 1	Large/Orange	
DAIRY – Breeding Animals	July 1	Not tagged	
DAIRY – Market Steers	January 1	Large/Orange	
DAIRY – Feeder Dairy Steers	June 1	Large/Orange	
GOATS – Commercial Meat	July 1	Commercial Only – Small/Purple	
GOATS – Market Goats	June 1	Small/Lt. Blue	
GOATS – Pygmy		Not Tagged	
POULTRY	June 1	Not Tagged	
SHEEP – Breeding Animals	July 1	Commercial Only – Small/Purple	
SHEEP – Market Lambs	June 1	Small/Lt. Blue	
SWINE – Breeding Animals	July 1	Not Tagged	
SWINE – Market Hogs	June 1	Center post/ Yellow	
RABBITS/CAVIES	June 1	Not Tagged	

NOTE: If an animal loses its ear tag, the member must contact their County Extension Office regarding replacement. The Extension Office must retag with a Maryland 4-H replacement tag and make note on the member's Maryland 4-H Animal Registration Form at the time of retagging.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Identification Requirements

- In 2016, there will be a continuation of 2015 of Federal and State Animal Identification requirements. All animals except rabbits must have “Official Identification” to enter exhibitions. In most cases, this means the animal will have to be identified using an Official USDA or MD tag that is associated with a registered premise.
- Official Identification criteria and examples are provided at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/materials.shtml>.
- Official identification tags may be requested from the Maryland Department of Agriculture by calling 410-841-5810 or emailing animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov. NOTE: Tags are provided to individuals or farms classified as producers who raise and market livestock for profit or income. 4-H members with just one or a few head of show livestock are not classified as producers by MDA and are not eligible to receive official identification tags through MDA.
- To receive Official US Sheep and Goat Eartags or devices for interstate movement: Call 1-866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) to be connected to your local Veterinary Services Area Office and request that a premises identification number and Flock ID be assigned to your flock.

Official US Eartags

Official US eartags, approved for certain species, are tags approved by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that provide official identification numbers for individual animals. Before a manufacturer can produce and sell eartags bearing the Official US Eartag shield, the tag must be approved by APHIS.

There are several different types of Official US Eartags. Each has a slightly different use (See Table 2). A detailed description of the types of Official US Eartags with the specifications and options as well as lists of Official US Eartags that are currently approved are provided on the ADT Website at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/materials.shtml>.

The primary criteria for Official US Eartags include the following:

- Imprinted with an official identification number (USA = “840” or MD = “MD” or “51” followed by letters/numbers designating flock/herd, premise or animal number.)
- Official US Eartag shield 
- Tamper evident, high retention
- Other characteristics defined through tag specification

Table 2: Examples of Official US Identification Eartags (Source: APHIS, May ‘13)

Official Identification Eartags	General Explanation	Sample Eartags
Official Vaccination Eartag (Brucellosis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Metal, orange - Restricted use for bovine and bison brucellosis calfhood vaccination. 	
National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) Tags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily metal and silver, sometimes plastic. - Commonly referred to as “Silver” or “Brite” tags. - Historically used for disease testing and interstate movement. - Issued to Veterinarians. Also, VS Memorandum 578.12 revised March 15, 2011 to allow distribution to producers through State and Tribal authorities (i.e. Maryland Department of Agriculture) 	

<p>Animal identification number (AIN) “840” Tags</p>	<p>- Provided directly to producers from manufacturers [or their distributors], or to producers through accredited veterinarians or animal health officials.</p> <p>- Various sizes, shapes, colors. Visual only or with variable frequency RFID technology. The visual imprinting of the AIN on the tag is the official identifier for AIN tags with radio frequency technology. AIN tags may be imprinted with additional information for program identity, e.g., age, source programs.</p> <p>Note: 840 AINs are available in microchip implants for equine and other species.</p>	
<p>Sheep and goat tags</p>	<p>- Serial and flock identification tags including scrapie flock certification program tags approved through the scrapie program and provided at no cost to producers, markets, veterinarians, etc., through State or AVIC offices. “840” tags are also provided for regulatory work in infected and exposed flocks. Producers may purchase customized flock identification or “840” tags from approved tag manufacturers.</p> <p>- Available in various shapes, colors, metal or plastic.</p>	
<p>Premises identification number (PIN) tags – Slaughter swine</p>	<p>- Imprinted with premises identification number. Various tags approved through authorized manufacturers.</p>	

Additional Official US Eartag Information for Maryland 4-H Members

- Official US Eartags may be applied at an animal’s point of origin, or where it is born. This provides the greatest level of effectiveness for animal disease traceability systems. This could mean that 4-H project animals which are purchased by members may already have their Official US Identification applied. If animals do not have Official US Identification applied when purchased, the options below are possible ways for 4-H members to obtain Official US Eartags.
- a) Official US Eartags are available from Maryland Accredited Veterinarians if 4-H members just have one or a few animals needing identification. Members should contact their veterinarian in advance about this need. Veterinarians may choose to apply the tag at the time they are performing the visual inspection needed for issuing a CVI. 4-H members should not assume that their veterinarian will have tags if not contacted in advance!
- b) Official US Eartags may be requested from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) by calling 410-841-5810 or emailing animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov. NOTE: Tags are provided to individuals or farms classified as *producers* who raise and market livestock for profit or income. 4-H members with just one or a few head of show livestock are not classified as *producers* by MDA and are not eligible to receive tags through MDA.
- c) If 4-H members do their own breeding or have several animals needing official identification they should register their farm and obtain a premise number by contacting the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) by calling 410-841-5810 or emailing animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov. 4-H members will need to obtain a premise number through MDA if they wish to order Official US Eartags through commercial tag vendors. A premise number is required to order Official US Eartags from vendors. A list of approved vendors and tags are provided on the ADT Website at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/materials.shtml> . Vendors will typically have a minimum order size requirement.

- DO NOT apply more than one Official US Eartag to an animal. If an animal has an Official US Eartag already do not apply a second tag. Also, DO NOT REMOVE an Official US Eartag from an animal; this action is considered unlawful!
- Official US Eartags are not required to be in an animal at the time of 4-H Tagging and Weighing. They are; however, required to be in at the time of the Veterinarian's visual inspection for a CVI.

If you have questions contact Chris Anderson, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Animal Sciences via email: canders2@umd.edu or phone: 301-314-7187.

Additional Resources:

Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division - Home Page.
<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalhealth/pages/default.aspx>

Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division – Animal Disease Traceability.
<http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/disease-traceability.aspx>

Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division – 2016 Fair and Show Requirements
<http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Disease Traceability General Standards
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_standards.pdf

APHIS Animal Disease Traceability Framework: Official Eartags – Criteria and Options
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_eartags_criteria.pdf