**Important Information Regarding Ear Tags**

There is a

new requirement for RFID tags for all cattle at all Maryland shows

. RFID means Radio Frequency Identification.

Annapolis, MD

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The

Maryland Department of A

g

riculture,

Animal Health Program has issued a policy that all cattle and swine

shown

at Maryland exhibitions must have an official USDA approved Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tag starting this

year, 2017 and beyond.

**Who need**

**s**

**RFID tags for 2017?**

All exhibitors of cattle and swine in Maryland including both open class and 4H exh

ibitors.

**How do**

**I get official RFID Tags**

?

After obtaining a premise identification number (PIN), a list of available

official USDA

approved RFID tag

manufacturers

can

be obtained from this USDA websit

e:

[https://www.aphis.usda.fov/traceability/downloads/AD](https://www.aphis.usda.fov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_ain.pdf)

[T](https://www.aphis.usda.fov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_ain.pdf)

[\_device\_ain.pd](https://www.aphis.usda.fov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_ain.pdf)

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**How do I get a premise identification number (PIN)?**

You may request a premises identification number (pin) with our

premises registration form. Your premises identification number

will arrive on a card in the mail 7

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 days after we receive the

premises registration form. Call 410

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 with any questions.

**How do exhibitors get official RFID ear tags?**

Two ways:

1.

Veterinarians can tag animals when they perform

the required

health inspection prior to exhibition.

2.

Exhibitors wishing to obtain their own premises tags may do so by

obtaining

a premises identification number (PIN) and

then purchasing RFID tags from an approved USDA distributor.

**Can producers give out their**

**own tags to other producers? NO**

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Because of animal disease traceability purposes, any

official USDA RFID ear tags assigned to a specif

ic PIN cannot be given to other

producers. Producers are responsible to insert in

their cattle and swine only th

e RFID ear tags designated for their PIN alone and no other.

**Who should tag exhibition livestock?**

It is best that livestock be tagged at the farm or origin. Having an official RFID tag in

place be

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responsibility. A veterinarian may apply official ear tags to cattle and swine while

performing a health inspection or the exhibitor may purchase official RFID tags and apply them. Be sure to keep records of a

ll tags

applied.

**What if an an**

**imal already has an official tag but not a RFID**

**official**

**tag?**

It is unlawful to remove an official identification

tag. If an animal does not have an R

FID ear tag, the animal can be

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double

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tagged with a RFID ear

tag. This is an allowable

upgrade.

**What if tags fall out or get lost?**

If it becomes necessary to retag an animal with a new official RFID ear tag (assigned to that

premise), every effort should be made to

correlate the new official RFID number with the previous official nu

mber. A record of this

change w

ould be kept on file by the exhibitor. Also, the official RFID ear tag number must correlate to the official identification

listed on the Certificate of

Veterinary Inspection (CVI) as recorded by a veterinarian.

**Will animals without RFID tags be rejected?**

The 2017 Maryland Fairs and Shows Policy require RFID ear tags for cattle and

swine at Maryland exhibitions. 2017 will be a transitional year. Lenienc

y may be afforded at the discretion of each of the

exhibitions. It is strongly recommended to avoid any inconvenience by havin

g proper ID and paperwork. No e

xceptions will be

made beyond

the 2017 season.

From the UMD Exten

sion Service