



# Official Livestock Identification Reference Deck



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Division of Animal Health  
800-572-8981 Toll-free  
608-224-4872 Local

[datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov)

## Official Identification Reference Tag Summary

| Tag Type                                   | Card # | Cattle | Cervid | Swine | Sheep | Goats | Equines | Poultry |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)  | 1      | ●      | ●      | ●     |       |       |         |         |
| Animal ID Numbers (AIN)—840                | 2      | ●      | ●      | ●     | ●     | ●     |         |         |
| Animal ID Numbers (AIN)—Manufacturer Coded | 3      | ○      | ○      | ○     |       |       |         |         |
| Animal ID Numbers (AIN)—American ID        | 4      | ○      |        |       |       |       |         |         |

- Acceptable Identification
- Acceptable Identification with exceptions, see card for details



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## National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)

### National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)



**Other names:** Metal tags, silver tags, “brite” tags, USDA tags, TB tags, Bang’s tags (orange), Brucellosis vaccination tags (orange), Johne’s vaccination tag

**Material type:** Metal or plastic; Available in any number of colors but orange color reserved for tags used for Brucellosis (Bang’s) vaccination

**Species used on :** Acceptable for all livestock species except sheep/goats.

**Official number:** 9-character format that starts with a state two digit code (35 is WI) or a postal abbreviation followed by three letters and four numbers, example: 35ABC1234. Some states may have an 8-character tag that has only two letters for use in species with smaller ears (i.e. cervids and swine), example 42AB1234. In Wisconsin, a smaller 9-character tag is available for use in cervids. On these tags, the 35 is on the side of the tag opposite the ABC1234.

**Special comments:** These tags should have a US Shield. Older tags may not have a US Shield. Tags without a US Shield should not be applied to an animal after March 11, 2015.



**How to order:** Veterinarians can order silver tags from DATCP or the manufacturer and orange official brucellosis tags from the manufacturer. Markets, dealers, and DHIA's must order directly from DATCP. Cervid producers can order smaller sized metal tags directly from the manufacturer.



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## Animal Identification Numbers (AIN)—840 Tags



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## Animal Identification Number (AIN)—840 Tags



**Material type:** Plastic; Many colors available; Acceptable with and without Radio Frequency Identification (RFID – may also be called Electronic ID or EID)

**Species used on:** Acceptable for all livestock species.

**Official number:**

- 15 digit number, the first three of which are “840”
- First three numbers are different for every country (USA’s code is “840”; Canada’s code is “124”)
- All 15 digits should be recorded on official paperwork.

**Special comments:** These tags should have a US Shield. Older tags may not have a US Shield. Tags without a US Shield should not be applied to an animal after March 11, 2015. Animals that originate from another country should not be identified with an “840” tag.



**How to order:** Tags can be ordered directly from the manufacturer. Producers can order their own tags.



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## Animal Identification Numbers (AIN)—Manufacturer Coded



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## Animal Identification Number (AIN)—Manufacturer Coded



**Material type:** Plastic; Many colors available; Only available as Radiofrequency Identification (RFID - may also be called Electronic ID or EID)

**Species used on:** Except sheep and goats, acceptable for all livestock species when applied to the animal prior to March 11, 2015.

**Official number:**

- 15 digit number, the first three of which are in a “900” series such as “985”
- All 15 digits should be recorded on official paperwork.

**Special comments:** These tags will not have a US Shield. These tags are official for the life of the animal if applied prior to March 11, 2015. These tags are not official if applied on or after March 11, 2015.

**How to order:** Tags can be ordered directly from the manufacturer. Producers can order their own tags. This type of identification will only be considered official for animals to which it is applied prior to March 11, 2015.



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## Animal Identification Numbers (AIN)—American ID



## Animal Identification Number (AIN)—American ID



**Other names:** FAIR tags, Breed association tags, Breed registration tags

**Material type:** Plastic; Many colors available; Only available as visual tag

**Species used on:** Cattle when applied to the animal prior to March 11, 2015.

**Official number:**

- 8-12 digit number preceded by the letters "USA", which are found on the line above and to the right of the number as shown here
- USA000012345678 OR USA12345678 (In this example, the official number is USA70180189.)
- The entire number, including the USA, should be recorded on official paperwork.



**Special comments:** These tags will not have a US Shield. These tags are official for the life of the animal if applied prior to March 11, 2015. These tags are not official if applied on or after March 11, 2015.

**How to order:** Producers can order tags from breed associations or DHIA's. This type of identification will only be considered official for animals to which it is applied prior to March 11, 2015.



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