

USDA'S 840 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SOLUTION OFFERS PRODUCERS ONE NUMBER WITH MANY USES

Producers looking for individual animal identification solutions with a wide variety of benefits need to look no further than 840 animal identification devices. These devices provide a unique U.S. country code animal identification number (AIN), or 840 number, for U.S.-born animals. U.S. producers can use 840 animal identification devices for a range of programs, and USDA is already utilizing these devices to speed several critical, ongoing animal disease testing programs.

Marketing alliances, quality assurance, breed registries, performance recording and identifying lost or stolen animals can all be covered with just one 840 animal identification device. These devices can also be used for all of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service programs, including mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL). Producers who use the 840 animal identification numbering system will have a convenient and cost-effective method that documents the origin of their animals in the United States to packers for COOL. Packers can rely upon this information for their origin claims on products at retail.

"The 840 animal identification solution is the individual animal ID option with an added punch," said APHIS administrator Cindy Smith. "Not only can it improve the ability of U.S. animal health officials to quickly respond to a disease outbreak, but the 840 AIN also helps producers to simplify recordkeeping and reduce the number of animal identification systems they use. The 840 AIN is truly one number with many uses."

By choosing 840 eartags, producers can also become part of the federal/state/industry partnership established to increase the United States' disease response capabilities--the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). NAIS is designed to limit the

spread of animal diseases, minimize animal losses and economic impact, protect producers' livelihoods and maintain market access

More and more producers are using 840 ID to identify their U.S. born animals, and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is incorporating these devices into ongoing disease programs to increase efficiency. APHIS is using more than 360,000 of the 840 ID tags in its ongoing bovine tuberculosis testing program in California, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, Nebraska and Louisiana. APHIS is also using 75,000 840 ID tags for ongoing brucellosis program work in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The 840 tags speed up the testing process and ensure accurate recording of test data.

Currently, there are 25 approved 840 devices, including visual and RFID options, so producers can choose what works best for their operation. For more information on 840 ID devices, including how to obtain them for your animals, please visit APHIS' NAIS Web site at www.usda.gov/NAIS.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Joelle Schelhaus at (301) 734-0595 or e-mail: joelle.r.schelhaus@aphis.usda.gov.

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