

Radio Frequency Identification Tags (RFID)

RFID: More than just ID

RFID does more than just identify individual animals. Producers and veterinarians can use RFID tags and software to simplify recording performance and health data. RFID technology can be used to track an animal's entire life story from birth to slaughter including information about parentage, feed intake, weight gain, gestation, offspring, vaccinations and treatments.

Farmers and producers who embrace RFID technology gain a competitive advantage over those who continue to use traditional tracking methods.

RFID helps prevent disease spread

Using RFID helps to safeguard the world's food supply. Cattle are moved frequently for interstate commerce, exhibition, and dairy production. Animal disease traceability allows animal health officials to identify cattle exposed to contagious diseases quickly and initiate quarantine and testing procedures that prevent disease spread. If left unchecked, diseases like tuberculosis and brucellosis can cause significant economic losses for the cattle industry and negatively impact the food supply chain.

RFID tracks movement efficiently

An increasing number of government regulations and programs encourage owners to adopt RFID technology. The USDA is proposing mandating that all farmers apply RFID tags to cattle and bison transported interstate.



Why RFID?



Beneficial

Producers are using RFID to keep track of livestock inventory, as well as record essential health data for each animal in their herds. Data collected from the tags can be maintained electronically, streamlining retrieving, reviewing, and sharing information.

Easy to use

RFID tags are applied with an easy-to-use applicator tool. Each tag represents a unique 15-digit tracking number. Handheld RFID wands or stationary panels are used to read each animal's tag and verify identity.



Popular

Traditional metal tags are being replaced by RFID as producers find this form of ID simpler, more affordable, and convenient. The United States and other governments are encouraging this technology's use to better manage animal diseases.

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