Official Identification for Cattle and Bison

*Official identification may not be removed from an animal once it is applied.*

**Animal Identification Number (AIN) System**
- Consists of 15 digits beginning with the official country code - ‘840’ for the United States
  - In compliance with federal law, AIN tags must display the U.S. shield if applied to an animal March 11, 2015 or after
  - 4-H tags available by contacting your county extension office
- 15-digit tags beginning with the letters ‘USA’ or manufacturer-coded tags beginning with any number between 900 – 998 are only official if applied to the animal prior to March 11, 2015

**National Uniform Ear Tagging System (NUES)**
- Begins with the official state number – ‘41’ for Minnesota
  - In compliance with federal law, metal NUES tags must display the U.S. shield if applied to an animal March 11, 2015 or after
  - Purchase plastic tags - Call Leedstone at (877) 608-3877 or the MN Dairy Herd Improvement Association at (800) 827-3442
  - Purchase metal tags - Call the Ketchum Manufacturing (minimum order 100 tags) at (800) 222-0460 or National Band and Tag Company (minimum order 100 tags for producers; 1,000 tags for veterinarians) at (859) 261-2035

**American Identification Number System**
- These tags are only official if applied to the animal prior to March 11, 2015
- Combines ‘USA’ with 8 or 9 digits
- Includes the National Farm Animal Identification and Records (FAIR)
  - Administered by Holstein Association USA, Inc.

**Breed Registry Tattoos and Tags**
- Acceptable for within-state movement if accompanied by documentation listing the breed registration number.
  - Pending registrations are not acceptable. Limited use for imports – see www.mn.gov/bah for more information.

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