Exhibition Swine Official ID Fair and Exhibition Frequently Asked Questions

Is official identification (ID) required for exhibition?

All swine being shown at exhibitions, including fairs, jackpot shows, birthing exhibits and other events are required by state law to have official ID in place. It is the responsibility of the exhibition to verify that all swine have official ID.

What is official ID?

Official ID is imprinted with a nationally unique official animal ID number and bears the official U.S. shield. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags and 840 tags are both official ID for exhibition swine.

What is an 840 tag?

840 tags have a unique 15-digit number beginning with 840 and bear the U.S. shield. 840 tags may be obtained by individuals from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved manufacturers' distributors (typically required to order in bulk, 25 or more per order). A National Premises ID Number (PIN) is required to purchase 840 tags. To obtain your PIN, contact Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) at 800-292-3939.

840 Tag

What is a NUES Tag?

Both metal and plastic NUES tags are approved as official ID for exhibition swine. Fairs may order metal or plastic NUES tags from MDARD by contacting Tina Moreno at 517-284-5683. Only fairs may order plastic NUES tags for use in exhibition swine, provided at no cost. The metal tags are available at no cost and can be ordered by individuals, veterinarians or fairs. When using NUES tags, fairs will be required to track specific information.

NUES Tags*

*Plastic tags are preferred for swine due to the need to minimize animal stress and handling.

If a fair or exhibition is using NUES tags as their fair tags and a pig already has an 840 tag, the fair may apply a second form of official ID. However, it is illegal to remove official ID. Both numbers are required to be recorded when recording the official ID numbers of the pig.

How can a fair or exhibition meet the official ID requirement?

All county fairs are allowed to set specific guidelines to meet the swine official ID requirements; this can include requiring NUES tags or 840 tags. Fair and swine department leadership can decide how best to meet this requirement for their event.

What are some examples of how a fair or exhibition can distribute NUES tags?

- They can distribute tags to exhibitors using either a pick-up system or a check-in/tagging day, that aligns with the fairs ownership requirements.
- They can elect to apply the plastic NUES tags at entry/weigh-in, at the start of fair.
- They can require two forms of ID, a fair tag and a form of official ID.

How can fairs or exhbitions use animal check-ins to apply official ID?

Fairs or exhibitions may opt to use an animal check-in to distribute/apply official ID tags. When utilizing this option fairs are encouraged to have strict biosecurity measures in place to help prevent the spread of disease. Commingling of animals in a certain location or area (scales) is strongly discouraged. Instead it is suggested that specific person(s) enter the trailer, wearing disposable gloves and boots. These items should be changed between each trailer, along with disinfecting of any equipment used.

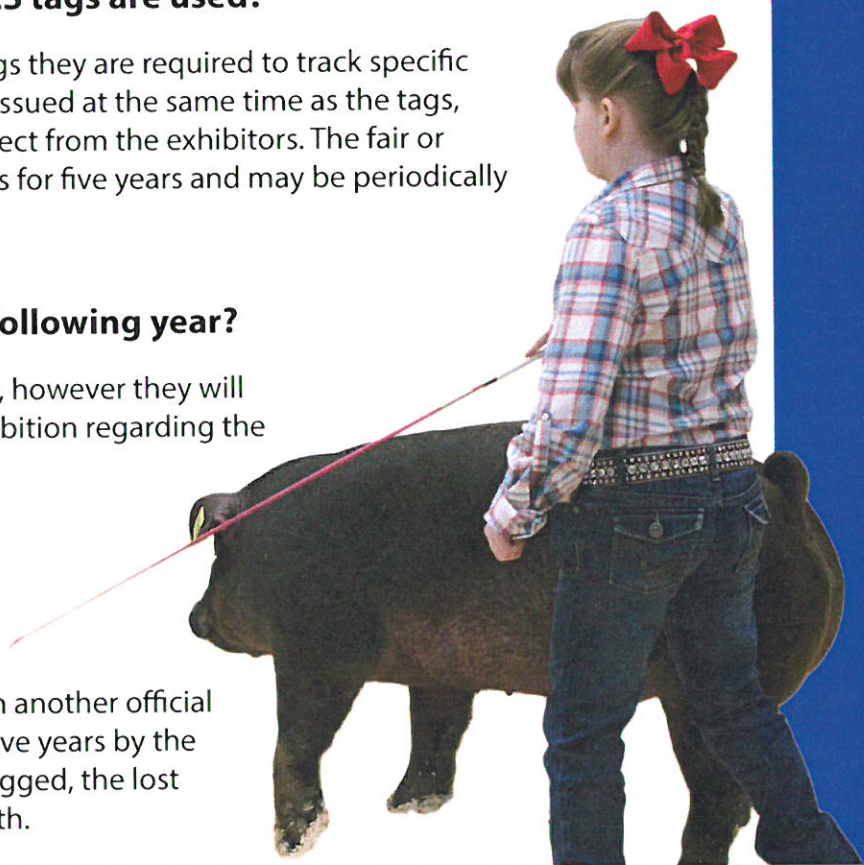## What is required by MDARD when NUES tags are used?

When a county fair is issued a group of NUES tags they are required to track specific information. An electronic spreadsheet will be issued at the same time as the tags, explaining what information the fair should collect from the exhibitors. The fair or exhibition is then required to keep these records for five years and may be periodically audited by MDARD staff.

Can the fair keep unused tags for the following year?

The fair may keep unused tags for the next year, however they will need to notify MDARD following the fair or exhibition regarding the number of applied tags.

What happens if an exhibitor's pig loses it's official ID?

If an official ID tag is lost, it can be replaced with another official ID tag. Records will need to be maintained for five years by the exhibitor to show the date the animal was re-tagged, the lost tag number and the number it was replaced with.

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