

Michigan Exhibition Swine Official Identification

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is official identification required in the State of Michigan?

According to Public Act 466 of the Animal Industry Act official identification for exhibition swine is required by state law. The purpose of official identification is to help the state track swine if a disease outbreak occurs, this is called traceability.

What is official identification?

Official identification is imprinted with a nationally unique official animal identification number and bears the official US shield. Official identification guidelines are established by the USDA. NUES tags and 840 tags are both official identification for exhibition swine.

Is official Identification required for exhibition?

All swine being shown at exhibitions, including county fairs, jackpot shows, birthing exhibits and other events are required to have official identification in place.

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 from USDA approved manufacturers' distributors by individuals (see http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/exhibition_swine for list). These tags typically cost between \$1.25 and \$1.50/per tag. A Standardized National Premises Identification Number (PIN) is required to purchase '840' tags. (Typically required to order in bulk, 25 or more per order.)



What is a NUES tag?

Both metal and plastic National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags are approved as official identification for exhibition swine. Fairs may order metal or plastic NUES tags for use in exhibition swine from Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD). Only fairs may order official plastic NUES tags for use in exhibition swine, which are provided at no cost from MDARD. The metal tags are available at no cost and can be ordered by individuals, veterinarians or fairs.



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

What is a Premise Identification?

A Premise Identification is a number issued to your farm when you register with MDARD. By registering as a premise your farm will be listed with the National Animal Identification System, which increases traceability. This information is not shared with other sources. To obtain your Premise Identification Number (PIN), contact MDARD at (800) 292-3939.

Will official identification ear tags replace the need for health papers when traveling across state lines?

Official identification is a state requirement only. When traveling across state lines with exhibition swine you will still need health papers issued by a veterinarian within 30 days of travel. Also, make sure to always check the health and identification requirements of the state you are traveling to.

What is required by MDARD when county fairs use the plastic NUES tags?

Only a county fair can be issued a group of plastic NUES tags and they must meet certain reporting requirements specific information on this can be found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/exhibition_swine.

Are breeders required to tag my pig before I buy it?

It is not the responsibility of the swine breeder to apply official identification before sale. Breeders may opt to tag your pig with official identification, however having official identification in place before exhibition is the exhibitor's responsibility.

Can we use 900 series tags as official identification?

If "900 series tags," typically used in cattle, are applied to the animals prior to March 11, 2015 they can be used as official identification. This type of tag is being phased out by the USDA because it does not have a US shield imprinted on the tag.



When do official identification tags need to be applied?

The state requires the pigs to be tagged prior to exhibition. Individual exhibitions are allowed to set specific requirements, (which may allow for tagging on site) participants should check with the event organizers on the requirements.

Can we remove official identification ear tags?

It is unlawful to remove an official identification ear tag. If a second tag is required by a specific exhibition (i.e a county fair specific tag) the animal will need to be double tagged.

What happens if the official identification ear tag comes out of my pig's ear?

If an official identification tag is lost it can be replaced with another official identification tag. Records will need to be maintained by the exhibitor to show what the lost tag number was and what number it was replaced with.



PIN Tags do not have a unique non-repeatable number on them. They ARE NOT an acceptable form of official identification for exhibition swine.

Where can I find more information on official identification for swine?

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/exhibition_swine