

OFFICIAL EARTAGS

NATIONAL UNIFORM EARTAGGING SYSTEM (NUES)

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The National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) is a numbering system for official eartags used for many years in specific animal disease programs. The NUES has been used primarily for metal brucellosis vaccination eartags, "brite" metal identification eartags, and Dairy Herd Information Association (DHIA) eartags. Until recently, use of these eartags was restricted to animal health officials and DHIA.

In 2011, USDA revised the policy for the administration of NUES eartags that gave State and Tribes the option to have NUES eartags distributed to producers so they could apply the NUES eartags themselves. This option is entirely at the discretion of the State or Tribe animal health official. This option supports the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) framework by providing flexibility to the States and Tribes to work with producers at the local level to implement activities for traceability that work best for them.

Producers interested in obtaining NUES eartags must contact their State or Tribe animal health official.

Specific guidance for State and Federal animal health officials for the administration and use of NUES eartags is provided in VS Memorandum 578.12

NUES eartags are designed for one-time use (tamper evident) and are imprinted with the NUES number and the Official Eartag Shield. The NUES number is formatted with 9 characters for large livestock and 8 characters for species with smaller ears requiring smaller eartags. Further explanation of NUES formats are provided in the following examples:



Official Eartag
Shield

9 Character Format:

- 23 ELV 4574 or PA ELV 4574
- 2 character State or Tribe code
 - 3 alpha characters
 - 4 numeric characters

8 Character Format:

- 23 DX 4574 or PA DX 4574
- 2 character State or Tribe code
 - 2 alpha characters
 - 4 numeric characters

Details on the formats of the NUES number, State and Tribe codes and other related information is provided in the ADT General Standards document that can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>.

Obtaining and Using NUES Eartags

State and Tribes administer the distribution of NUES eartags. They may elect to restrict their use to Accredited Veterinarians or make them available direct to producers as well as through the veterinarians. Producers must contact their State or Tribe animal health official to find out if NUES eartags are available in their area.

USDA provides NUES tags to States and Tribes, to the degree funds are available, at no cost from their warehouse inventory that are obtained through contractual agreement with an approved NUES tag manufacturer. Most States have obtained NUES tags from this inventory for years and those processes have not changed. USDA inventories the 9 character "silver" NUES tags for those States and Tribes with

their numeric code. Several States obtain 8 character NUES tags with their numeric code through the same inventory process.

States and Tribes that prefer a different NUES tag (other manufacturer, color, postal abbreviation format, etc.) may purchase NUES tag direct from an approved NUES tag manufacturer. The administration of the NUES tags obtained direct from NUES tag manufacturers, including processes to ensure their uniqueness of the NUES number, is the responsibility of the State or Tribe.

The following list includes NUES eartags that have been approved by USDA. Approved manufacturers are authorized to imprint the Official Eartag Shield on eartags approved by USDA. Manufacturers are prohibited from producing NUES eartags without the authorization of State, Federal and Tribe Animal Health Officials.

Tag Manufacturer	NUES Product Code Tag Name Tag Type	Species Tag Size	
Hasco Tag Co.	NUES 0002 49 BRT Metal clip tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height= 1/2 in Width= 3/8 in	
National Band and Tag	NUES 0003 49 Cattle Tag 042 ST Metal clip tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height = 1-7/16 in Width = 3/8 in	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0004 Couple 74 Tag Plastic tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk, Sheep/Goat, Pigs Height= 35 mm Width= 38 mm	
Ketchum Manufacturing Company, INC.	NUES 0005 306A-Tamperproof Ear Tags Metal clip tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height= .460 in Width= .316 in	

Tag Manufacturer	NUES Product Code Tag Name Tag Type	Species Tag Size	
Hasco Tag Co.	NUES 0006 505 Tag 505-XE Colored Metal Metal Clip Tag	Deer/Elk, Pigs Height= ¼ in Width= 1 1/8 in	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0007 Allflex Ultra Large Plastic Tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk Height= 80mm Width= 58mm	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0008 Allflex Ultra Maxi Plastic Tag	Bison, Cattle, Deer/Elk Height= 98mm Width= 74mm	