

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

NVAP Reference Guide: Swine Identification

Last Modified:

[Expand All](#)

NVAP Reference Guide: Table of Contents

[Preface](#)

[Introduction](#)

Control and Eradication

- [Brucellosis](#)
- [Johne's Disease](#)
- [Pseudorabies \(PRV\)](#)
- [Tuberculosis](#)
- [Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies](#)
- [Scrapie](#)
- [Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy \(BSE\)](#)
- [Chronic Wasting Disease \(CWD\)](#)

Poultry

- [National Poultry Improvement Plan \(NPIP\)](#)
- [Avian Influenza \(AI\)](#)

- [Exotic Newcastle disease \(END\)](#)
- [Equine Disease](#)

[Aquatic Animal](#)

- [Aquatic Animal National Health Plan](#)
- [Aquatic Animal Health Activities](#)

Animal Health Emergency Management

- [Animal Health Emergency Management](#)
- [Emergency Response Structure](#)
- [National Response Framework \(NRF\)](#)
- [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#)
- [National Animal Health Emergency Management System \(NAHEMS\)](#)
- [Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan \(FAD PReP\)](#)
- [FAD Recognition and Initial Response](#)
- [National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps \(NAHERC\)](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Conditions](#)
- [WOAH and International Standards](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
 - [Importance of Cleaning & Disinfection](#)
 - [Cleaning](#)
 - [Disinfection](#)
 - [Regulation of Disinfectants](#)
 - [Safety](#)
- [Disease Surveillance](#)
- [Laboratory Submissions](#)

Animal Movement

- [Interstate Regulations](#)
- [Interstate Movement of Cattle, Horses, Swine, Sheep and Goats](#)
- [Issuing Interstate Animal Movement Documents](#)
- [International Animal Movement](#)
- [Issuing International Health Certificates \(IHCs\) for Live Animal Movement](#)
- [Common Problems Observed on Certificates for Live Animal Movement](#)

Animal Identification

- [Animal Identification](#)
- [Cattle Identification](#)
- [Swine Identification](#)
- [Equine Identification](#)
- [Sheep and Goat Identification](#)
- [Fowl Identification](#)
- [Compliance and Regulations](#)

Appendix

- [A: 9 CFR PARTS 160, 161, and 162](#)
- [B: APHIS VS District Offices](#)
- [C: State Animal Health Officials](#)
- [D: Forms](#)
- [E: Other Organizational Information with Contact Points](#)
- [F: Web Sites](#)
- [G: Equine Teeth and Aging](#)

Current APHIS-approved means of swine identification devices (ID) are identified below. Approved swine ID and methods may change depending on technological advances or changes in the code of federal regulations. If you have questions / concerns regarding current animal identification devices that would be considered as official ID for your state; please contact your State Animal Health official or the Assistant District Director overseeing your state for more information.

The current list of approved APHIS swine identification devices / methods includes:

- Official eartags.
- USDA backtags only when used on swine moving in slaughter channels.
- Official swine tattoos (issued and authorized by State or Federal Animal Health Officials) on swine moving in slaughter channels.
- Ear notching if the ear notching has been recorded in the book of record of a purebred registry association.

- Tattoos on the ear or inner flank of any swine if the tattoos have been recorded in the book of record of a swine registry association.
- For slaughter swine and feeder swine, an eartag or tattoo bearing the Premises Identification Number assigned by the State Animal Health Official to the premises on which the swine originated.
- Other official identification methods may be used if approved by the Administrator of APHIS or anyone authorized to act for the Administrator.

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