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Swine Identification

Last Modified:



APHIS is offering no-cost radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags to eligible swine producers. This program will enhance the speed and accuracy of disease response efforts across the swine industry.

APHIS has awarded a contract to Merck Animal Health to supply up to $20 million in RFID tags over the next 5 years. These tags are intended for use in the **sow** and

exhibition swine sectors.

What sets this program apart is its **direct-to-premises distribution model**—tags will be shipped directly from the manufacturer to the producer, streamlining access and reducing delays.

Who Can Order

- Commercial Sow Facilities
- Exhibition Swine Facilities
- State Animal Health Officials

To qualify, requesters must:

- Have a valid premises identification number (PIN).
- Provide shipping and contact information.
- Report the number of sows or show pigs onsite.

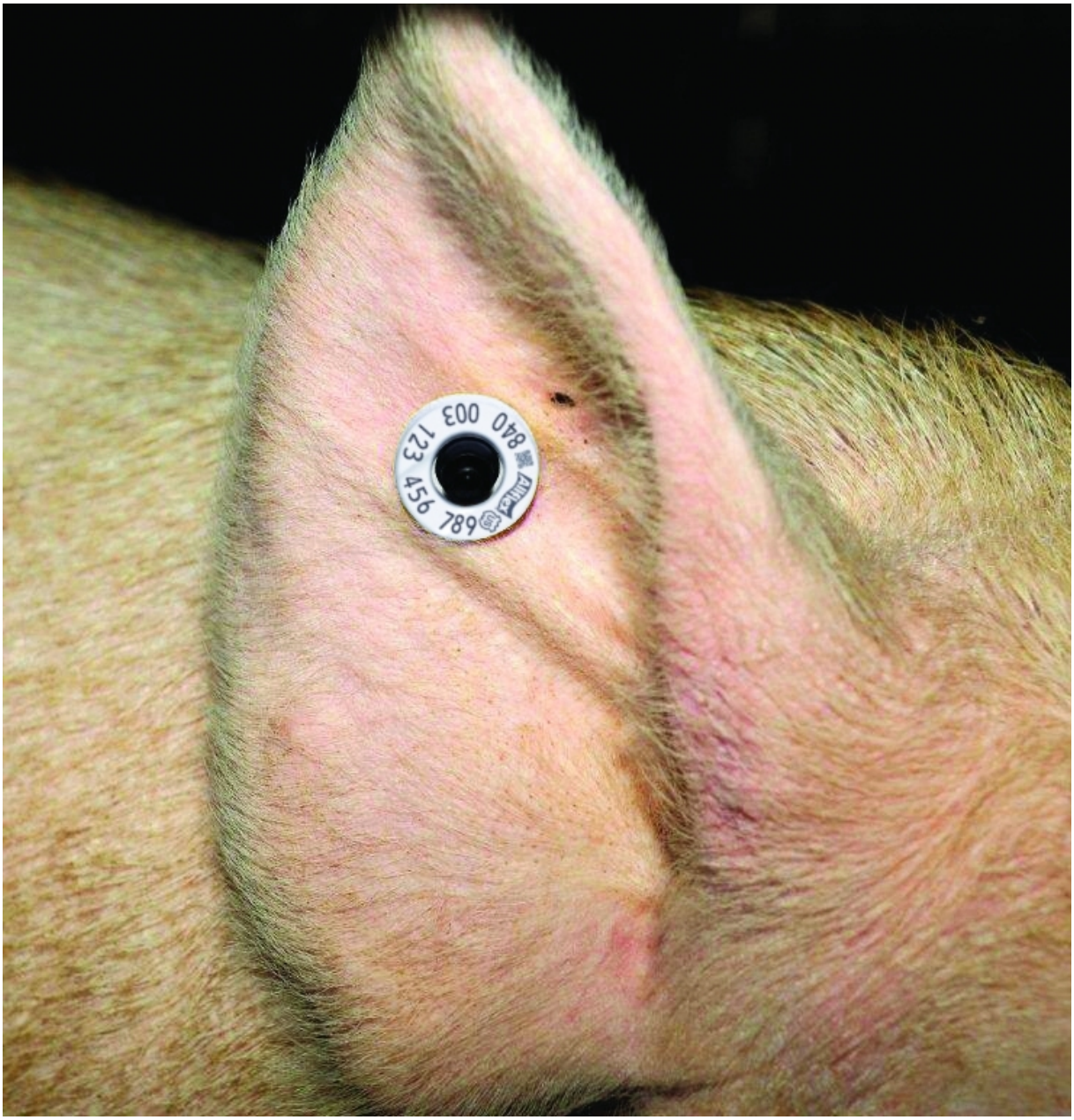
Tag Ordering Guidelines

Number of Sows on Premises	Maximum Number of Tags per Year
1–500	500
501–999	750
1,000–4,999	1,500
5,000–9,999	3,000
10,000+	6,000

The number of half duplex (HDX) RFID eartags available each year at no cost through this program varies by group.

- **Sow Producers:** The maximum number of tags is based on the number of sows at a premises, as shown in the table.
- **Exhibition Swine Producers:** You may order tags for all swine on your premises.
- **State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs):** You may request tags for up to 50% of your State’s breeding sow population, as reported by USDA's National

Agricultural Statistics Service.



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