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Mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) of Youth Project Cattle
Michigan State University Extension Service
Michigan RFID Education Task Force
Ken Geuns, MSU
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Michigan RFID Education Task Force



Mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) of Youth Project Cattle

Starting March 1, 2007, Michigan will require that all cattle be identified with radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags prior to movement from Michigan premises. This requirement includes cattle that are exhibited and sold by youth exhibitors at various shows and county and state fairs.

It is very important that all youth producers and their families are aware of this new requirement as they make plans for the 2007 show season. All cattle, including those participating in shows and exhibitions or sales, must be identified before movement from their premises.

Michigan is the first state in the nation to announce the implementation of mandatory RFID ear tags for cattle. This requirement will help to provide assurance for food safety and security and allow Michigan producers to maintain and expand export markets into other states and internationally. The mandatory Michigan RFID animal identification program will provide for faster tracking of animals for disease con-



trol and eradication and will be very helpful in moving Michigan to a higher bovine tuberculosis (TB) status.

The Michigan RFID animal identification program is also part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) that will soon be implemented by the U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA). The RFID tags replace the need for the metal USDA tags, which will no longer be used in Michigan.

Starting March 1, 2007, cattle without RFID tags will not be allowed to move from a Michigan premises or be sold.

Getting Started

Youth producers will be required to obtain national premises identification numbers and to purchase tags to apply to their cattle unless the youth have purchased cattle that already have RFID tags in place. If their animals are part of an existing

operation that has a premises number, the tags that have been assigned to that operation may be used in the project cattle. Producers may call the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 1-866-870-5136 to obtain their national premises identification number and to place orders for tags. The RFID tags cost \$2 per tag, and a tag applicator costs \$20. Tags may not be ordered unless a premises identification number has been assigned.



be RFID tagged before they leave the Michigan premises to attend a show or sale beginning March 1, 2007.

Where is the Tag Applied?

The tag is applied to the left ear of the animal following the directions supplied with the tags. (SPECIAL NOTE: The left

ear is on the left side of the animal when it is viewed from behind.)

Always use a tag applicator that is specifically made for the RFID tags to be used. Use of a different manufacturer's tag applicator or an applicator designed for other tag types will likely destroy the RFID tags. The RFID tags require a completely different applicator than the metal USDA tags.

Purchasing Youth Project Cattle

Most youth project cattle are purchased from other producers. If youth purchase cattle from Michigan producers before March 1, 2007, highly encourage that producer to have the RFID tag applied before the youth takes possession. As of March 1, 2007, all Michigan producers will be required to have RFID tags in their cattle before the cattle leave their premises. If cattle are purchased from out-of-state sources, these cattle must

Additional Information

For more information or to obtain other fact sheets in this series, go to:

www.michigananimalid.com.

Author:

*Ken Geuns, Michigan State University, in collaboration with the Michigan RFID Education Task Force.

Task Force Members:

Michigan RFID Education Task Force
www.michigananimalid.com

*Michigan State University Extension
Department of Animal Science
517-355-8383

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry Division
517-373-1077

Michigan Cattlemen's Association
517-347-8117

Michigan Milk Producers Association
248-474-6672

Michigan Farm Bureau
Commodity and Marketing Department
800-292-2680



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