

# Guide to 840 EIDs



## What are they?

EIDs, or Electronic Identification tags, are button-style tags with embedded microchips.

## How do they work?

EID tags use radio frequency identification (RFID) to communicate with a reader. The reader sends a radio signal that the tag picks up and the tag returns its unique 15-digit number to the reader.

Information is not uploaded to the tag itself. If you choose to use these tags as a management tool, the tags are read with a reader and integrated into your software system to record data. No one else can access the data you enter into your management software.



840 EIDs are official USDA tags. When sold, they are reported to the USDA database as allocated to your premise ID or state. This process is no different from previous metal bangs clip numbers or brand registrations.

Third-party verification companies, like RAAA, tie your tag numbers to your program enrollment. Your certificate of compliance is searchable by the tag number in the RAAA database.

## Benefits

- One tag serves multiple purposes, including disease traceability, calfhood vaccination records, value-added program compliance and management practices.
- EIDs increase your chances of receiving carcass data and grid information.
- EIDs have a higher retention rate compared to dangle tags.
- EIDs are less likely to be cut out during feed yard processing.
- EIDs are easy to apply and more cost-effective than in previous years.
- Packers and feedlots prefer purchasing program calves with an EID rather than a dangle tag.

## USDA Requirements

As of Nov. 6, 2024, certain classes of cattle will require an 840 EID button. Those classes include the following:

- all cattle and bison 18 months of age and older that are still sexually intact,
- all female dairy cattle of any age,
- male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013,
- cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events,
- cattle and bison used for shows or exhibitions.

If a USDA-approved tag or metal clip was applied before Nov. 6, 2024, that form of official identification will remain compliant.

## Acquiring EIDs

Purchasing an 840 EIDs requires a premise ID. This ID is tied to the location where livestock are managed, typically your ranch location or a 911 address. Producers can contact their Department of Agriculture office to request a premise ID. Premise IDs are free and are typically issued on the same day.

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