

# Swine Official Identification



Official Identification (ID) is a device or identification mark approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Official ID devices must provide a unique identification number, must be tamper evident, and bear the U.S. shield. **It is unlawful to remove official ID from an animal once applied.**



**A National Premises Identification Number (NPIN) is required to order AIN and PIN official ID eartags for swine.**

## How do I obtain an NPIN?

- Visit [www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal\\_Health/ID\\_Info.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/ID_Info.html)
- Call (866) 325-5681
- Email PAIS@cdfa.ca.gov

## Animal Health and Food Safety Services

### Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002  
Redding District - (530) 225-2140  
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350  
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500  
Ontario District - (909) 947-5932

## Animal Identification Number (AIN) “840” Tags

AIN tags begin with the official country code (“840” for the U.S.) followed by 12 digits. AIN tags are available with radio frequency identification technology that allows them to be readable both visually and electronically. These tags are available to producers and accredited veterinarians and can be obtained directly from tag manufacturers.

AIN tags can be used for breeding, feeding, and exhibition swine and swine moving directly to slaughter.



## Premise Identification Number (PIN) Tags

PIN tags begin with the state postal code followed by a 7-digit PIN assigned by CDFA or USDA. These tags are used to identify swine to the premises they were kept immediately prior to entering harvest channels and can be obtained by producers. If PIN tags include a unique individual animal number, they can be used for interstate movement of non-slaughter animals.

PIN tags can be used for breeding, feeding, and exhibition swine and swine moving directly to slaughter.



## National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) Tags

NUES tags (also called “silverbrite” tags) are metal or plastic ear tags that begin with the state postal code, followed by two or three letters, and four numbers. Producers, accredited veterinarians, and markets can obtain NUES tags from the USDA or CDFA.

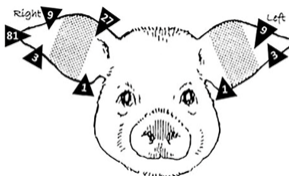
NUES tags can be used for breeding, feeding, and exhibition swine and swine moving directly to slaughter.



## Universal Ear Notch System

Ear notches, using the Universal Ear Notching System, identify an animal by litter number (right ear) and individual animal number (left ear). Notches must be recorded with a purebred registry association, and the registration certificate must accompany the animal to qualify as official ID.

Ear notches can be used for breeding, feeding, and exhibition swine.

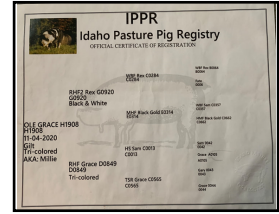


# Swine Official Identification

## Tattoos

Regardless of type, all tattoos must be legible.

**Breed Registry Tattoos:** Breed registry tattoos must be recorded with a purebred registry association, and the registration certificate must accompany the animal to qualify as official ID.



These tattoos can be used for breeding and exhibition swine.

**Slaughter and Feeder Swine:** Tattoos bearing the 7 character federal identification number (PIN) or 6 to 8 character state location identification number (LIN) of the premises of where the swine originated.



Official swine (slap) tattoos can be used for swine moving directly to slaughter only.

## Back Tags

USDA back tags are a form of temporary identification that can be used in lieu of official ID when swine are moving directly to a recognized slaughter facility. These tags are available from your local CDFA District Office.



## Companion/Pet Swine

Companion or pet swine may include breeds, such as potbellied pigs or mini pigs, that are not traditionally used commercially. If the breed of swine qualifies the animal as a companion breed, an electronic implantable device (microchip) may be used for official ID.



Implants must be compliant with ISO 11784/11785 and must be an AIN ("840").

Implant placement is between the skin and cartilage of the backside of the ear near where the ear joins the head.



Animals should be accompanied by a microchip reader.



## Official ID Manufacturers

**Allflex USA Inc.**  
(800) 989-8247  
[www.AllflexUSA.com](http://www.AllflexUSA.com)

**Destron Fearing**  
(800) 328-0118  
[www.Destronfearing.com](http://www.Destronfearing.com)

**Y-Tex**  
(307)587-5515  
[www.YTex.com](http://www.YTex.com)

**Datamars**  
(254) 598-3440  
[www.Datamars.com](http://www.Datamars.com)

**Shearwell Data Limited**  
(800) 778-6014  
[www.shearwell.com](http://www.shearwell.com)