



March 28, 2023

To: All Cattle and Bison Industry Stakeholders

RE: USDA ADT Proposed Rule Change and Public Comment Period

Dear Stakeholders,

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently released proposed amendments (rule changes) to the animal disease traceability (ADT) regulations. Being able to trace diseased and at-risk animals is critical to ensuring a rapid response when animal disease events take place. Thus, the proposed changes are intended to strengthen the U.S.'s ability to quickly respond to animal disease outbreaks as rapid traceability significantly assists in helping contain a disease outbreak and facilitates an earlier return to commerce.

Some of the salient points in the proposed rule include:

- **Official eartags must be visually and electronically readable** for interstate movement of specific classifications of cattle and bison.
- **Use of Electronic Identification Devices (EIDs) for official identification** instead of radio frequency identification (RFIDs) to allow for technological advancement of identification devices in the future. The proposed rule does not specify that the visually and electronically readable eartags would have to be animal identification numbers (AINs) with an 840 prefix.
- **Revision and clarification of certain record requirements** related to cattle and bison, including requiring official identification device distribution records to be entered into a tribal, state, or federal database, and made available to APHIS upon request (photocopying, scanning, etc.).
- **Changing the definition of approved tagging sites.**
- **Changing the definition of dairy cattle** to now reference, "all cattle, regardless of age or sex, breed, or current use, that are born on a dairy farm or are of a breed(s) used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption, or cross bred calves of any breed that are born to dairy cattle".

Interested stakeholders are highly encouraged to view the proposed rule in the [Federal Register](#). The comment period for the proposed rule change began on January 19, 2023. **All comments were initially due March 20, 2023, however the comment period was extended and must now be received by April 19, 2023**, after which APHIS will review all comments and address them in a final rule.





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

The expected timeline for the new rules to be effective would be six (6) months (180 days) following publication of the final ruling into the Federal Register.

Respectfully,

Amanda
Murray

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cc: Annette Jones, DVM
California State Veterinarian and Animal Health and Food Safety Services Director

