
STATE OF MONTANA

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TO: Montana Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) producers, veterinarians and brands personnel

FROM: Martin Zaluski, DVM
Montana State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Identification requirement for cattle and domestic bison leaving the DSA

DATE: August 18, 2011

Effective August 12, 2011, all sexually intact cattle and domestic bison (regardless of age) must be identified with official individual identification **prior** to leaving the DSA (some variances may be granted in a herd plan). Some surrounding states have additional requirements. Contact your veterinarian or the animal health official in the state of destination for details.

A variety of identification options that meet this requirement are available, including:

1. Orange metal brucellosis vaccination tags (OCV, "bangs" tag),
2. Orange official RFID tags (sometimes used instead of the metal orange tag for OCV),
3. White or yellow official RFID tags beginning with the numbers "840",
4. Silver, USDA-APHIS metal "Brite" tags.
5. Age and source 900 series tags are also allowed at this time; however, these tags will likely be phased out following publication of the federal identification regulations.

Identification should be applied prior to arrival at a market to maintain the speed of commerce and to avoid additional charges at the time of sale. The most convenient and least expensive time to apply tags may be at the time of pre-conditioning or at another time that cattle are handled.

Silver "Brite" tags can be obtained at no cost by calling the USDA-APHIS office at (406) 449-2220, or by contacting the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) at (406) 444-2043.

Also see the attached Frequently Asked Questions brochure or visit our website at www.liv.mt.gov for additional information.