

USDA ANIMAL I.D. PROPOSAL: COMMENTS NEEDED NOW!

Livestock shipments out-of-state under the Animal Disease Traceability Proposal:

- Require all feeder cattle to be officially identified.
- Becomes a mandatory national system.
- Will not accept hot brands as an official identification method nationally.
- Requires an approved ear tag with USDA 9-digit number and US seal.
- Requires even cattle headed directly to a slaughter facility to be officially identified.
- Requires a veterinary Certificate of Inspection to accompany each animal (ICVI).
- Places responsibility for data collection and storage of data on each animal that must be retained for 5 years –Each producer, buyer, feeder, or sales barn that has held that animal must comply.
- Requires an investment by the producer, the state livestock board, feed lot operators, and sales barns to comply with this proposed rule. (Application and reading of tags, recording and storage of animal data and vet certificates)

Due to public demand, your comments timeline has been extended, but only until the **December 9 deadline**. So please comment today!

YOU CAN COMMENT THIS WAY:

You can mail your comments by December 9 to:

Docket No. APHIS–2009–0091,
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8,
4700 River Road Unit 118,
Riverdale, MD 20737–1238.

To write electronic comments and see the full content of proposed rule go to:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0091-0001>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL PRBRC AT 307.672.5809 or
WWW.POWDERRIVERBASIN.ORG

Sample letter/e-mail to USDA

Date

Name

Address

State, zip

Docket No. APHIS-2009-0091,
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8,
4700 River Road Unit 118,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Re: Animal Disease Traceability Proposal Docket No. APHIS-2009-0091

Please accept my comments on the proposal from USDA/Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service to require identification of all livestock moved out of state.

The draft proposal should exclude all feeder cattle and livestock being shipped direct to slaughter. Requiring special identification and record keeping under this rule for short life spanned food animals is costly and an additional burden upon both state and federal agencies, livestock producers, feeders and sale barn businesses.

Requiring the extra costs, inputs and labor from producers to provide additional special identification will further burden the farming and ranching businesses already stressed by escalating costs of production. Further, with livestock markets controlled by a handful of huge multi-national packers who frequently manipulate prices paid to producers to below the cost of production, these additional costs will cause a further decline in the numbers of ranches and farms across the nation providing consumer goods.

Excluding non-breeding cattle from this rule will not compromise current state or national programs for herd disease control. Including the mainstay of the cattle industry-feeder cattle-would unnecessarily burden livestock producers and increase consumer costs for finished products.

Hot Iron Brands should continue to be recognized as an official form of identification. This form of identification is used by 15 states and should continue to be accepted by sending and receiving states as well as interstate shipments governed by USDA.

This traditional form of ownership should continue to be utilized for tracking and as an official identification method.

USDA must facilitate the formation of cooperative agreements between livestock sending and receiving states to ease the burden of additional national requirements upon state livestock agencies, livestock producers and businesses. This will reduce the detrimental effects to the speed of commerce and interference with the necessary supply of consumer goods.

Sincerely,

Name

State