

Sharon Gamble, Agricultural Agent

FS# 3

Florida Mandatory Cattle Identification – How to Get It Done

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as of March 2013, required cattle (18 months of age or older and dairy cattle of any age) to have mandatory identification, to move across state lines. Beginning September 4, 2014 the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) required mandatory cattle and bison identification for all cattle over 18 months of age, moving within Florida. Exceptions for the USDA and FDACS rules include cattle being moved to “approved” cattle tagging sites and recognized slaughter facilities. Under FDACS exception also included cattle movement from pasture to pasture under the same ownership as part of normal management practices.

Who Can Apply Tags:

Producers may apply “approved” USDA tags to their own cattle or can transport cattle to approved tagging sites. Producers who apply tags at their ranch, they must have a premise identification number. The premise identification number is obtained from FDACS, Division of Animal Industry (850-410-0900). Forms are located at:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Florida-Cattle-Identification>

Obtaining Approved Tags:

Producers must obtain USDA approved “official tags.” Tags may be obtained from USDA, through the Florida Division of Animal Industry for no fee or from “approved” manufacturers, accredited veterinarians or animal health officials of which fees may be applied.

While there is no charge for the USDA tags, producers will need to have their own ear tag applicator pliers. For those familiar with the Brucellosis eradication program, the tags and applicator pliers are the same. Tagging pliers for applying these tags can be purchased from animal health supply companies for around \$20.00. These tags are manufactured by HASCO Tag Company and specific applicators to fit them are HASCO style No#75 and HASCO style No# 49/56SA

All acceptable tags must have the U.S. shield on it, must be imprinted with a nationally unique animal identification number (AIN) of 15 digits. It is illegal to share tags. Tag numbers are assigned to your premise identification number (your farm/ranch).

Volusia producers are directed to contact their Division of Animal Industry District 3 Field Office to obtain the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags. The contact for District 3 (Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Citrus, Sumter, Marion, Putnam, Flagler, Volusia, Lake and Seminole Counties) is as follows:

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