

# OFFICIAL EARTAGS

## NATIONAL UNIFORM EARTAGGING SYSTEM (NUES)

April 14, 2025

The National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) is a numbering system for official eartags historically used in specific animal disease programs. The NUES has been used primarily for metal brucellosis vaccination eartags, "brite" metal identification eartags, and Dairy Herd Information Association (DHIA) eartags.

Per [9 CFR Part 86](#), visual-only NUES tags are no longer acceptable as official identification for cattle and bison when applied on or after November 5, 2024. Visual-only NUES tags for cattle and bison placed in ears prior to this date will be considered official for the life of the animal and need not be replaced. Visual-only NUES tags are official options for other species for which they are approved.

NUES eartags are designed for one-time use (tamper-evident) and are imprinted with the NUES number and the Official Eartag Shield. The NUES number is formatted with 9 characters for large livestock and 8 characters for species with smaller ears requiring smaller eartags. Further explanation of NUES formats is provided in the following examples:



Official Eartag  
Shield

### 9-Character Format:

- 23 ELV 4574 or PA ELV 4574
- 2-character State or Tribe code
  - 3 letters
  - 4 numbers

### 8-Character Format:

- 23 DX 4574 or PA DX 4574
- 2-character State or Tribe code
  - 2 alphabetic or alphanumeric characters
  - 4 numbers

Details on the formats of the NUES number, State and Tribe codes and other related information is provided in the Official Animal Identification Devices Standards document that can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/traceability>.

### **Obtaining and Using NUES Eartags**





State, Tribes, and Territories administer the distribution of NUES eartags.\*\* They may elect to restrict their use to Accredited Veterinarians or make them available directly to producers as well as through the veterinarians. Producers should contact their State or Tribal animal health official to find out if NUES eartags are available in their area.

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\*\*For more information on sheep and goat/scrapie tags, please visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie-tag>.

States and Tribes may purchase NUES tags directly from an approved NUES tag manufacturer. The administration of the NUES tags obtained directly from NUES tag manufacturers, including processes to ensure their uniqueness of the NUES number, is the responsibility of the State or Tribe.

The following list includes NUES eartags that have been approved by USDA. Manufacturers that produce approved tags are authorized to imprint the Official Eartag Shield on eartags approved by USDA. Manufacturers are prohibited from producing NUES eartags without the authorization of State, Federal, or Tribal Animal Health Officials.




Tag Manufacturer	NUES Product Code Tag Name Tag Type	Species Tag Size	
Hasco Tag Co.	NUES 0002 49 BRT Metal clip tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height= 1/2 in Width= 3/8 in	
National Band and Tag	NUES 0003 49 Cattle Tag 042 ST Metal clip tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height = 1-7/16 in Width = 3/8 in	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0004 Couple 74 Tag Plastic tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk, Sheep/Goat**, Pigs Height= 35 mm Width= 38 mm	
Ketchum Manufacturing Company, INC.	NUES 0005 306A-Tamperproof Ear Tags Metal clip tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk, Pigs Height= .460 in Width= .316 in	

Tag photos are not in proportion to actual size - see chart above for tag dimensions.

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\*Visual-only NUES tags are not official for cattle and bison if applied after November 5, 2024.

\*\*For more information on sheep and goat/scrapie tags, please visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie-tag>.

Tag Manufacturer	NUES Product Code Tag Name Tag Type	Species  Tag Size	
Hasco Tag Co.	NUES 0006  505 Tag 505-XE Colored Metal  Metal Clip Tag	Deer/Elk, Pigs  Height= ¼ in Width= 1 1/8 in	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0007  Allflex Ultra Large  Plastic Tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk  Height= 80mm Width= 58mm	
Allflex USA, Inc.	NUES 0008  Allflex Ultra Maxi  Plastic Tag	Bison*, Cattle*, Deer/Elk  Height= 98mm Width= 74mm	

Tag photos are not in proportion to actual size - see chart above for tag dimensions.

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