

FDACS Cattle Identification Rule and What You Need to Know

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Cattle Identification Rule (s) (Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code) went into effect February 19, 2014.

These rules will improve the state's ability to respond to serious disease outbreaks and to help maintain out-of-state markets. **The rules require cattle and bison (18 months and older) entering and moving within the state to be tagged with official identification. There are three exemptions to the rules: *cattle moving to approved tagging sites for tagging, cattle moving directly to slaughter and cattle moving between pastures under normal ranching operations. Cattle moving between pastures can include cattle or bison transported between two ranches, owned by the same producer.***

FDACS will be conducting educational outreach prior to initiating enforcement actions. However, any cattle moving within Florida that are not officially identified by April 7, 2014 may be quarantined until officially identified. Subsequent violations will result in administrative fines to the cattle owner. Cattle owners can obtain USDA officially identified tags at no charge or can purchase tags from private suppliers. To obtain tags at no charge, producers should contact FDACS, Division of Animal Industry District Offices. District representatives will make arrangements for tag delivery.

The USDA officially identified tags are metal tags, also known as National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES), or "Brite" tags. Private manufacturers offer metal, plastic panel and radio frequency identification device tags for purchase.

If you have not joined the Florida Cattlemen's Association, I would like to invite you to attend the North Florida Cattlemen's meeting on Thursday, April 24 at the UF/IFAS Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center located at 8202 Creek 417, Live Oak. The program will start at 5:30pm and the guest speaker will be Dr. Cliff Lamb, UF/IFAS Beef Cattle Specialist from the North Florida Research and Education Center – Marianna.

There is also another program on the Management of Forages for Hay Production and Grazing on Monday, March 24 at Allison Farms in Lake City from 10am – 2pm. This program will cover forage fertilization, insect control/update on Bermuda stem maggot, spring weed control/herbicide update, and a forages plot demonstration. Both programs are free to attend and you may register for these programs at 386-752-5384 or Columbia@ifas.ufl.edu.

More information on the Cattle Identification Rule and Enforcement can be found at; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services
<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Florida-Cattle-Identification>

Florida Cattle Identification Rule / Enforcement and Penalties

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/35020/828353/5C-31_Adopted_Rule.pdf
http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/35021/828358/5C-30_Adopted_Rule.pdf

Obtain Tags

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/33198/813773/5_Requesting_Official_Tags.pdf

FDACS Division of Animal Industry District 2 Office (Jefferson, Taylor, Madison, Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Nassau, Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties)

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