

Declaration of Edward Zimba

I, Edward Zimba, certify and state as follows:

My name is Edward A. Zimba. My wife and I own and operate the farm that my father bought in 1946. I have been farming for 27 years and have been certified organic for 15 years. The farm is now an organic dairy and crop farm consisting of approximately 2700 acres and 690 head of dairy cattle.

On February 6, 2007, my wife and I attended a meeting sponsored by the Ag Commission of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), which was held in the Governors' Room at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan. We attended to express our concerns about the new requirement to use radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags in our cattle. After the meeting we, along with Andrew Schneider, met with State Veterinarian Dr. Steven L. Halstead in the hallway to discuss the issue further.

Much of what we were being told led us to believe that the new RFID system was supposed to help eradicate the problem of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in the cattle. Confused about this, my wife attempted to get some clarification from Dr. Halstead by proposing a similar scenario. She asked him how piercing her own ear would keep her from getting sick. Dr. Halstead said she was right in that the RFID ear tags would not keep the cattle from getting TB. He said that the reason for the RFID requirement was that it would help the MDA get TB-free status from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for southern part of the lower peninsula in Michigan.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed June 12 2008.

Edward Zimba
Signed: Edward A. Zimba

6-12-08
Date

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of Oakland
My commission expires 1-16-2013
Tuscola
Acting in Tuscola County
Sworn to and subscribed before me in my presence, this day
June 12, 2008 by Edward A. Zimba.
[Signature]
Signature Notary Public
LOBI L. PAESE