



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LANSING

DAN WYANT  
DIRECTOR

November 01, 2004

Attention: Michigan Cattle Producer

Bovine tuberculosis eradication efforts by producers, industry officials, and regulatory agency staff have been recognized by USDA through the granting of official bovine tuberculosis split state status to Michigan. With split state status, the majority of the state advances in the national tuberculosis eradication program, reducing testing requirements related to cattle movement. One reason that this recognition was granted is the progress that has been made in the identification of Michigan livestock.

The Animal Industry Act, Public Act 466 of 1988, as amended, requires that all cattle bear official identification prior to leaving a premises within the state. Official identification is an official USDA or Michigan alphanumeric ear tag (silver tag), or official electronic identification ear tag. A tattoo from an official breed registry may also be used as official identification, but only if a copy of the breed registration certificate accompanies the animal on its movement.

Beginning December 1, 2004, MDA will begin strict enforcement of the official identification requirement described above. Under this requirement, any cattle which are presented for sale at a Michigan livestock auction facility that do not bear official identification will not be allowed to unload. Additional enforcement action may also be authorized under the law and be taken.

To facilitate distribution of official identification, ear tags will be issued and sent directly to cattle producers from MDA. Beginning November 1, 2004, please contact the MDA Animal Industry Division, toll free, at (866) 870-5136 to order or re-order identification tags. When you call this number, you will get a voice message asking you to leave your name, address, contact phone number, number of breeding animals in the herd, the number of tags you are requesting, and if they are for cattle or goats. You may also place your order by sending an email with the same information to [mda-bovine-id@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-bovine-id@michigan.gov). Expect to receive your tags within approximately ten (10) business days.

Thank you for your participation in helping to protect the Michigan livestock industry.

Sincerely,

Michael S. VanderKlok, DVM  
TB Program Coordinator  
Animal Industry Division