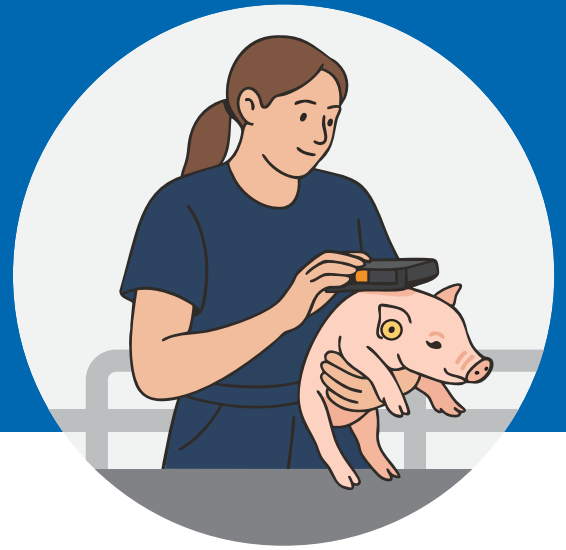


COMMON RFID 840 TAG QUESTIONS



What is an RFID 840 tag?

This tag is a USDA-approved, official ear tag used to uniquely identify individual pigs for shows and interstate commerce. The tag features a 15-digit number that begins with 840 — the U.S. country code — followed by 12 digits that are unique to each animal.

The RFID (radio frequency identification) component allows for the 15-digit individual animal ID to be read quickly and accurately by an electronic reader without having to physically read a tag that may be dirty or hard to read on a live animal. This provides an easy and quick way to maintain an electronic record of individual animal movements and assists in quick and accurate traceback if needed, like in the case of a disease outbreak. The tags are unlawful to remove and cannot be transferred between animals.

What is the difference between an RFID 840 tag and a visual 840 ear tag?

The only difference between an RFID 840 tag and a visual 840 ear tag is that the visual tag must be read manually; it cannot be read quickly with an RFID reader for less animal handling and faster identification.

Why is the industry moving toward utilizing RFID 840 tags?

RFID 840 tags enable faster, more accurate electronic identification of individual animals, eliminating the need to manually read tags or ear notches. This reduces errors and lowers stress for both animals and handlers. Electronic scanning and recordkeeping also improve the speed and accuracy of animal movement tracking, especially in the event of traceback. While group movements are easily tracked, RFID 840 tags enhance our ability to monitor individual movements — most commonly for exhibition swine.

All states accept RFID 840 tags as official identification for swine at shows and interstate movement.



Although animal disease traceability does not prevent disease, an efficient and accurate traceability system reduces the number of animals and response time involved in a disease investigation. This, in turn, reduces the economic impact on owners and affected communities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRACEABILITY

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aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/traceability





REGISTER FOR A PIN TODAY

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What is a PIN, and how do I obtain a premises ID if I do not already have one for my farm?

A premises identification number (PIN), sometimes called a premises ID, is a unique seven-character alphanumeric code assigned by the USDA through the State Veterinarian's Office. It permanently identifies a physical location for animal disease traceability, helping animal health officials trace animals back to where they were raised or moved through during their lifetime.

To obtain a PIN, reach out to your state animal health official. aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/traceability/pin

Does my premises ID number need to be listed on an RFID 840 tag?

A PIN is required to order RFID 840 tags, but it doesn't need to be printed on the tag. Including it is optional though helpful when cull sows or boars are sent to processing, as packers require official tags with a PIN for identification.

PIN tags link animals to the last premises before harvest and are for one-time use. They display the seven-character PIN and the U.S. shield and may include a herd management number to qualify as official ID for interstate movement.

How do I purchase/obtain RFID 840 tags?

Currently, the best way to obtain an RFID 840 tag is by going through an RFID tag manufacturer or dealer. You will need your site PIN to order 840 tags.

Can I purchase/obtain RFID 840 tags from my veterinarian?

Your veterinarian can purchase them, but they are not stockable items. They will need your site's PIN to order on your behalf.

What is the average cost of an RFID 840 tag?

On average, an RFID 840 tag costs \$1 to \$1.50 more per tag than an equivalent non-RFID tag. Different RFID 840 tag styles are available.

Can RFID tag scanners also read and store information from visual 840 ear tags?

Some RFID tags also include barcodes, which can be scanned by readers equipped with that capability. However, not all readers support barcode scanning, and doing so may require more animal handling than using an RFID reader alone.

I am a show organizer. How can I obtain an RFID tag scanner?

With USDA funding, the National Pork Board can currently provide RFID readers to exhibition sites. Sites must have a premises identification number (PIN) to qualify. Show organizers interested in receiving a reader can contact Dr. Brent Pepin at bpepin@pork.org.





If I sell a show pig with a corresponding RFID 840 tag, can that number be transferred to its new owner?

Since it is unlawful to remove an 840 tag, show pig producers are encouraged to ensure their customers understand the importance of an 840 tag and know how to continue logging movements for the animal. For out-of-state customers, ensure they have the proper paperwork required for crossing state lines, as requirements vary by state. Both the buyer and seller must keep movement records that include the 840 tag number, even if a health paper isn't required.

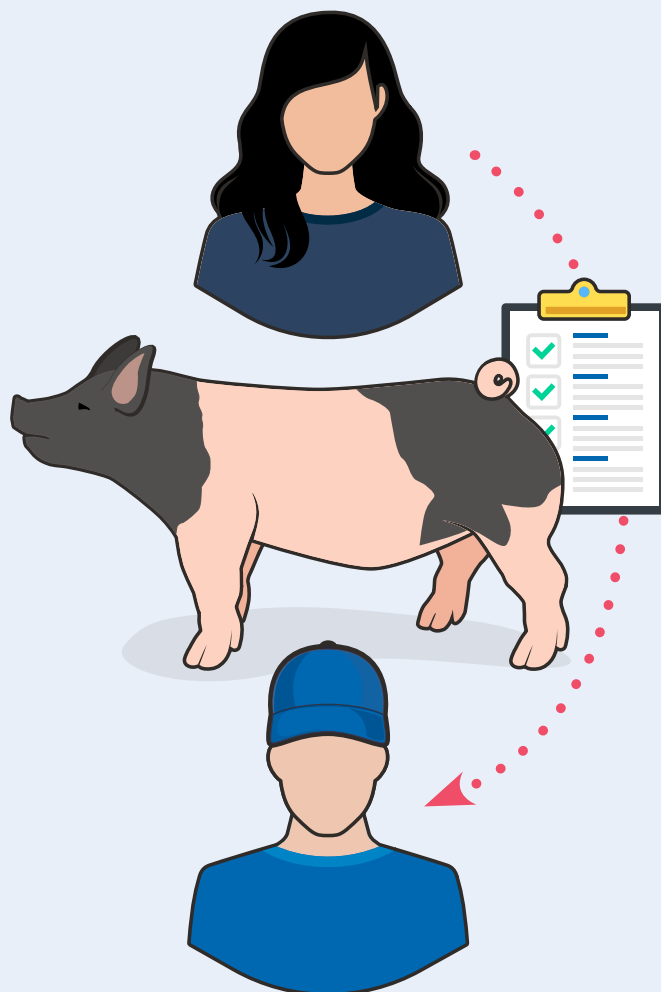
If detailed tracing is ever needed — or if paperwork is missing — the traceback may go back to the original site linked to the 840 tag order. This highlights the importance of keeping accurate movement records that include 840 tag numbers.

What is a CVI, and why is it important that I have one for my show pig(s)?

A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), often called a health paper, confirms that a veterinarian has checked your animal(s) and found no visible signs of contagious disease before they enter a comingling site like a livestock show. It also helps trace the animal back to its previous location if a traceback is needed — for example, during a disease outbreak or due to a residue issue. Exhibitors should also keep accurate and up-to-date movement records to support traceability.

Why are the lengths of CVIs and entry requirements different in each state?

States or regions may set different CVI requirements based on their specific disease concerns or situations. In addition, the shows themselves may have set specific requirements that they feel best protect the animals and people who participate.



What are the proposed traceability standards, and how do they affect the show pig industry?

Read and learn more about the proposed standards here: nppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Swine-Traceability-Standards_FINAL-DRAFT.pdf

These standards would require swine to be identified with an 840 RFID tag prior to movement to a show or sale. The 840 tag must remain with the animal until final disposition. All producers and show operators/management must record movement data into an electronic database that is compatible with the centralized database, and the data must be entered/recorded within three business days of the movement. Movement data must include the 840 number, sending and receiving PINs, movement date and animal type.

Note that NPB takes no position on these proposed standards and is merely providing this information as education.

Why is it important to keep animal movement records?

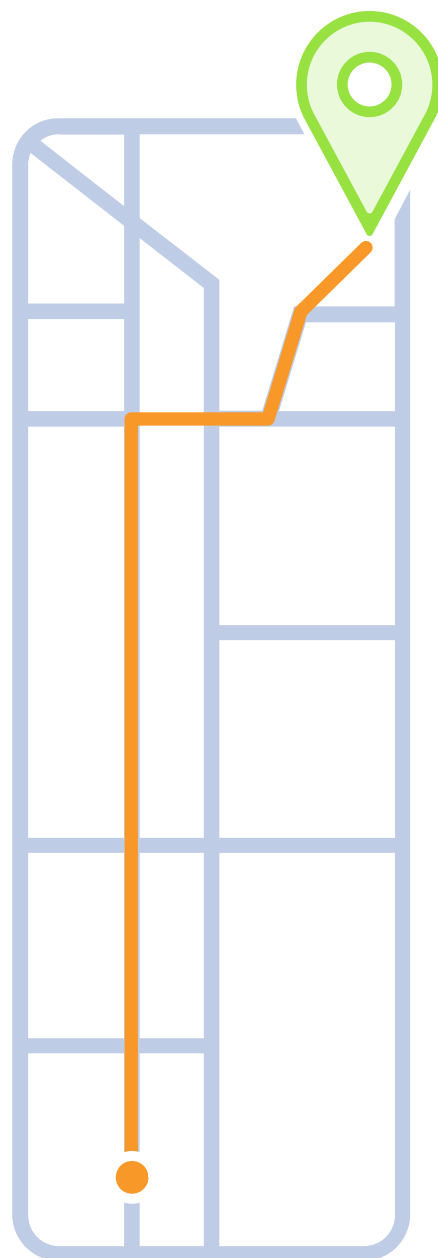
Without good records of animal movements, the animals at risk cannot be quickly identified in the event of a disease outbreak. No record of animal movement may require quarantining a larger area or more farms than necessary to confidently attain disease control. Incomplete records put the whole industry at risk.

How long do I need to keep movement records?

Federal regulations require animal movement records to be kept for at least two years. Storing records electronically — using tools like AgView® — makes it easier for producers to access and share them if requested by animal health officials. However, some states have their own requirements that may differ based on species or state regulations. It's always best to check with your state to confirm how long you need to retain animal movement records.

Is there a program available that allows me to log and house my animal's movements electronically?

AgView® is a free, opt-in technology solution from NPB designed to help the pork industry support animal health officials in rapidly tracing, containing and regionalizing a potential foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Show pig producers can use AgView® to securely share location, pig identification and movement data when requested by their state veterinarian. This information helps assess disease risk, supports continuity of business during an outbreak and speeds the recovery of pork exports. AgView® may be especially useful during outbreaks of FADs like African swine fever.



LEARN MORE ABOUT AGVIEW®

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porkcheckoff.org/certification-tools/producer-tools/agview/



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