

# Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) as the Official Identification Tag for Brucellosis Vaccination



The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) encourages the use of 840 RFID ear tags for official identification of brucellosis vaccinates. No color is specified for these RFID ear tags, but manufacturers have been requested to reserve the color orange to indicate brucellosis vaccination. RFID tags must begin with 840 to be considered official identification (900 series tags are no longer recognized as official).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently providing states with no-cost orange and white RFID tags, which are being distributed by CDFA district offices.



## Orange Color



White, yellow, or orange RFID tags can be applied at the time of brucellosis vaccination if an RFID tag is not already present, otherwise the existing RFID tag should be recorded on the brucellosis vaccination form. In both cases, orange metal tags may be applied but are not required. If orange metal tags are applied, both the RFID and the metal brucellosis tag must be reported on the brucellosis vaccination record.

Accredited veterinarians with a CDFA brucellosis vaccination contract interested in using orange RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination can order orange RFID tags directly from the retailer or obtain them at no cost from CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) district offices while supplies last. Note the RFID tag is applied in the animal's **left** ear in lieu of the traditional orange metal tag that is applied in the **right** ear.

Producers and veterinarians can purchase yellow and white RFID tags directly from retailers, or veterinarians can obtain white tags on behalf of producers at no cost from CDFA AHB district offices while supplies last. .



## Other Colors



The brucellosis vaccination reporting form and official identification tag numbers must be reported to the CDFA AHB within 14 calendar days of vaccination. RFID tag numbers should correlate with any existing official identification (metal tags) on the animal. Practitioners have **two options** for submitting vaccination reporting forms with RFID tag numbers:

**Option 1: Email an electronic version of the 840 RFID tag list to [evet@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:evet@cdfa.ca.gov) or your local district office in Excel or CSV format (not PDF).** Practitioners must also submit signed pink vaccination reporting forms to the local CDFA AHB district office, along with an attached paper copy list of the 840 RFID tag numbers. The corresponding vaccination form number should be included in the email's subject line.

**Option 2: Use USDA's Mobile Information Management (MIM) software to generate the brucellosis vaccination report form.** Submit the signed form to your local CDFA AHB district office, and send an electronic copy to [evet@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:evet@cdfa.ca.gov) or your local district office, attaching the electronic data file. The corresponding vaccination form number should be included in the email's subject line.

**If you are interested in using RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination and/or MIM software for generating brucellosis vaccination forms, please contact your local AHB district office. Free white and orange RFID button tags are available from your local AHB district office while supplies last.**

**For more information, please contact CDFA AHB headquarters or your local AHB district office:**

**Headquarters: (916) 900-5052**  
**Redding: (530) 225-2140**      **Tulare: (559) 685-3500**  
**Modesto: (209) 491-9350**      **Ontario: (909) 947-5932**