

4-H Beef Tagging Guidelines and Tips for EID Tags

Instructional videos for appropriate Allflex EID application may be found here:
<https://www.allflex.global/na/support/>

Applicators – for the EID tags, you **MUST** use the red **Allflex Universal Total Tagger** with the red blunt pin. *You must remove the black plastic insert from the base of the jaws.* The blue insert must also be removed if you are using the new, gray, UTT3S Allflex taggers provided to counties in 2023.

Placement of the EID tag in the applicator - The beef tags have a bump on the tag that is caused by the coil of wire. There is an arrow (line) on the other side of the tag. Place this to the top of the applicator when loading the tag. * See the pictures on the reverse side.

Application of the tags – As you can see in the instructions, the beef tags **MUST** be put in the **LEFT EAR** with the EID button facing to the front (inside the ear); visual part on outside of ear. They should be placed close to the head (1/4th to 1/3rd of the ear length) out from the base, in the middle of the ear vertically.

DO NOT put the tags in an existing hole in the ear. Doing so will greatly increase the chance of loss.

*See the pictures on the reverse side. After application, the EID tag should spin freely while the 4-H tag is held. If not, the male stem was not pushed far enough into the EID tag.

Use disinfectant – dip the tags and applicator in disinfectant. It is recommended that you use a product such as Nolvasan, Vetericyn, Tek-Trol, or an iodine solution. They are effective, non-irritation products and can be purchased from the local vet or vet supply store. Using a disinfectant will help the tag site heal and provide lubrication for easier tag application. Using a product that irritates the ear (alcohol, bleach, etc.) will cause the animal to do more rubbing of the ear and increase the chance of losing the tag.

Keeping things warm – It does not matter when we schedule the steer tagging, it will be cold. Cold tags are harder to put together. Here are some ideas to keep them warm. You can keep your disinfectant in heated bucket or put the bucket of warm water inside cooler. The tags will go together easier if kept warm. If you have electricity, you can use a space heater to keep the tags in front of. If not, a cooler with plastic bottles of hot water in it can be used to keep the tags in.

Keep the matched EID buttons and 4-H tags together – The tags are packaged with the EID and visual 4-H tag numbers correctly matched, which also corresponds to the tag match database available from Allflex. If, for some reason, the tags should get separated, you can use the sheet of labels to match them back up. Allflex has been working on their website over the past few years. If you are unable to download your tag data and need it, contact the KSU Youth Livestock Program Coordinator.

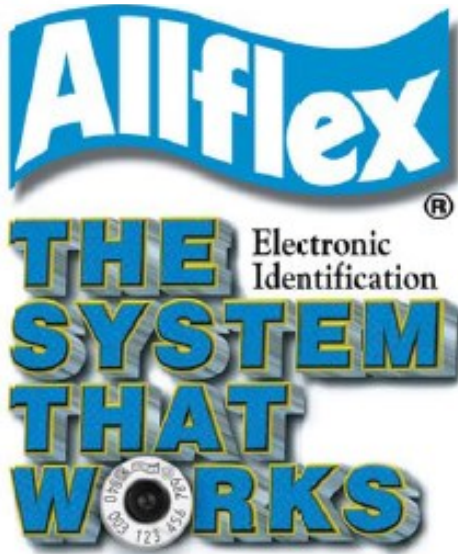
Using the labels – Each bag of tags has 2 sets of labels that include the EID tag number, a barcode of that 15-digit number, and the visual 5-digit 4-H management tag number (tag ID) on it. You may use one set of labels for county tagging. The other set of labels should be kept in a file to be used later for state nominations. *You also need to make a copy or take a picture of the labels and put them in a safe place, in the event your labels should get damaged or misplaced.*

Weigh-In Card – A template of the county weigh-in card can be downloaded from the KSU YLP website.

If the steer or heifer already has an EID tag – It is unlawful to remove an 840 tag from any specie of livestock, as it is their official (ADT) identification. An animal may also only have one EID tag. The Kansas 4-H Beef EID tags are official 840 EID tags. Please contact Lexie if you need to tag a 4-H/FFA project with an existing EID tag. ***DO NOT*** tag an animal with an additional 840 EID tag, if they already have one – it can legally only have one. Also, ***DO NOT*** remove the original 840 EID tag. There is an alternative process for animals being state nominated that already had one applied prior to 4-H member ownership (or county tagging).

Record Keeping – Extension professionals are responsible for maintaining tagging records for tags applied to 4-H livestock projects in their unit. Records for official (840) EID tags should be kept for five (5) years.

Questions – Can be directed to [Lexie Hayes](#), KSU Youth Livestock Program Coordinator.



Application Instructions for Allflex Electronic Identification Ear Tags

Apply Allflex Electronic ID Tags with the Red Universal Total Tagger.

Use the **red** blunt pin and **remove** the black **insert** from the base of the jaws for **beef** and **swine** EID Tags. Use black **insert** for **new, lightweight small ruminant EID tags with vented cap** (**sheep** and **meat goat**).



1. To load, depress spring clip and insert the female EID tag. Ensure that the raised portion of the tag, which encloses the transponder chip, is placed in the open portion of the jaws.
2. Slip the male tag completely onto the blunt applicator pin. Squeeze the jaws together lightly to ensure the male shaft is in line with the female.
3. Dip the jaws of the applicator holding the tag into an antiseptic or disinfectant solution.
Suggestions:
Iodine Solution
Nolvasan
Vetericyn

Recommended EID Tag Placement

Application site must be free of foreign debris prior to placement of tags on the animal. Review application instructions prior to tagging.

IMPORTANT: Caution, "Free Air Space" is critical for proper healing and retention. Inspect placement after tagging to ensure there is sufficient space between ear and EID tag. It is recommended to pull tag pieces apart for proper healing.



For CATTLE—Left Ear Only

1. The EID tag should be placed in the middle of the ear between the two cartilage ribs close to the head.
2. The female (EID) portion of the tag should be on the inside of the ear.



For SWINE—Left Ear Preferred

1. Place the EID tag in the middle or thicker part of the ear.
2. The male tag should be on the outside of the ear and the female (EID) should be placed on the inside of the ear. Tag retention is improved when male tag lays flush against the back side of the ear.

IMPORTANT: Tag application may vary based on breed type and ear size.



For SHEEP & MEAT GOATS—Left Ear Preferred

1. Use black tagger insert for lightweight, vented cap small ruminant EID tags.
2. Place the EID tag in between the cartilage ribs of the ear, near the first third of the ear (closest to the head).
3. The female EID portion of the tag should be placed on the inside of the ear.

IMPORTANT: Disinfect tags prior to tagging and spray for 3-5 days post-tagging to reduce the opportunity for infection.

Place Line at Top



Place Bump at Top

