



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

MESSY EARS ARE BEAUTIFUL

The ears of swine tell us a lot about them and their history.



THE IMPORTANCE OF EARS

Official Identification in swine is the most important ear marking. It is permanent ID that follows the pig for its whole life. It allows state and federal animal health officials to track where that pig has been throughout its life, which is important in controlling animal disease.



All official ID tags have the US Shield on them, indicating that they are approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**IT IS A FEDERAL CRIME TO REMOVE OFFICIAL
IDENTIFICATION TAGS**

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Official ID Types

OFFICIAL ID COMMONLY FOUND ON PIGS INCLUDE: RFID 840 TAGS, NUES TAGS, EAR NOTCHES AND REGISTRATION TATTOOS.



RFID 840 TAGS

Also called AIN tags. These are a very popular official ID type in swine. The number always starts with 840 and has 15 digits. These tags can be read visually or with an RFID reading device.



NUES METAL TAGS

Metal NUES tags, also called metal clip tags, begin with the a 2-digit state code followed by 2 or 3 letters, then 4 digits. These tags are only visually readable.



REGISTERED EAR NOTCHES

Ear notches can be used as official ID for swine only if the notch pattern is recorded on the pig's registration papers. Ear notches CANNOT be used for official ID on cross bred swine or unregistered pigs.



REGISTRATION TATTOOS

Tattoos can be used as official ID for pigs only if the tattoo is on the swine's registration papers and those papers must accompany the pig as it travels. Tattoos CANNOT be used for official ID on crossbred or unregistered pigs.