

Regulatory Compliance with BVS

One of the goals of the Beef Verification Solution (BVS) Program is to assist livestock producers with regulatory compliance issues. In the case of both Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and USDA's voluntary Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) efforts, enrollment in the BVS program can assist you in compliance and more importantly give you the benefits of a confidential livestock information management program, providing practical, farm level solutions for livestock data collection, data management and data communication.

For USDA's evolving Animal Disease Traceability program, "840" tags are considered an "official ear tag." **As a result, for those animals that need to be officially tagged, you can purchase "840" tags through your local BVS Verification Center and be in compliance with ADT.**

For Country of Origin Labeling purposes, in addition to affidavits, the U. S. Department of Agriculture permits packers to rely on the presence of official ear tags, **so again, all you need to do is purchase "840" tags through your local BVS Verification Center and be in compliance with COOL.** Note: While some buyers may still ask you to sign an affidavit for COOL compliance for their records, your record keeping requirements are met through the use of the "840" tag and the BVS private database.

So what are the steps?

- 1) Contact your state animal health department or official and get your official 7-digit premises identification number for your operation so that you can purchase "840" tags. You can use the "Animal ID Resources" link on the BVS web site to locate online applications for several states.
- 2) Contact your local BVS Verification Center to enroll in the BVS program and purchase "840" tags for any animals needing official identification.
- 3) Properly put the "840" tags in the animal's left ear. You're now compliant.
- 4) Use the BVS program and database to assist you in collecting, managing and communicating your animal data. For example, if you obtain carcass data from the packer let us import it into the system and create reports combining this data with other data that you've collected to assist you in making better management decisions for your operation.

If I do the above, will my cattle be age verified?

No. While the BVS program provides age verification services for many ranches in the Midwest, and can for yours too, this is considered a program add-on, requiring additional training and enrollment in the AgInfoLink Process Verified Program (PVP). But through the BVS Program, the same "840" tag used to comply with ADT and COOL can also be used to assist you with meeting the age verification requirements to qualify your animals for export to Japan. **NOTE:** You can follow the links from the BVS Home page to learn more about age verification and how to enroll your cattle in the PVP.

One System ~ Multiple Solutions ~ Beef Verification Solution