

In an effort to improve the efficacy of disease traceability in cattle, a new requirement has been put in place. The new cattle traceability rule, which goes into effect January 1, 2013, states that all adult (18 months old and older) beef cattle in Texas must have an approved form of permanent identification. This individual identification must be in place at any change of ownership, such as a private treaty or sale barn. However, cattle that have been raised on the ranch and are to be moved directly to slaughter are not required to have any form of identification.

Acceptable forms of permanent identification include silver metal ear tags, orange metal brucellosis vaccination ear tags, or a breed association registration freeze or fire brand, as long as it uniquely identifies the animal. Free metal ear tags will be available and can be obtained through the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), or the Henderson County Extension Office.

Additionally, it is important to note that due to this new traceability rule, it is no longer required to have a brucellosis test for adult cattle at change of ownership. For a complete list of acceptable forms of official identification, or for further information regarding the new identification requirements, visit tahc.state.tx.us.

Please contact us if you have any questions concerning the new identification requirements.