

4-H Beef Tagging Guidelines and Tips for EID Tags

The application instructions from Allflex can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.allflexusa.com/eid/applicators.php> from this site, select the [Download EID Application Guide PDF](#)

Applicators – for the EID tags, you **MUST** use the **Allflex Universal Total Tagger** with the red blunt pin. You must remove the plastic insert from the base of the jaws. You can also use the **EID Ultra Retract-O-Matic**. **DO NOT use the old retractomatic with the orange anvil.** You can order a conversion kit for the old ones.

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). 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 to dip the tags and applicator in. It is recommended that you use a product such as Nolvasan. It can be purchased from the local vet or vet supply. It is an effective, non irritating product. Using this will help the tag site heal and it will provide lubrication for easier tag application. River Valley district reports good success with a spray product, Tek-Trol, disinfectant aerosol. Using a product that irritates the ear 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 tags and 4-H tags together – The tags are packaged with the EID and 4-H numbers matched and in a data base available from Allflex USA. If for some reason the tags should get separated, you can use the sheet of labels to match them back up.

Using the labels – Each bag of tags has 2 sets of labels that have the EID tag, a barcode of that 15 digit number, and the 4-H number on it. You can use one set of labels for county tagging if you wish. You should keep one set of labels in a file to be used later for any state nominations. The tag label must be placed on the nomination form for that animal. This will allow the use of a bar code scanner to place the 15 digit number into the state nomination data.

Weigh-In Card – A template of the county weigh-in card can be downloaded from the youth animal science web site.

If the steer already has an EID tag – the existing tag will need to be removed and replaced with the 4-H EID tag. Do not put it in the existing hole.

Questions – Can be directed to David Kehler, Butler County Extension at 316-321-9660 or dkehler@ksu.edu

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