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# AVA NEWSLETTER

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116 Prospect St., Attica, NY

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[www.atticacows.com](http://www.atticacows.com)

Issue No. 5

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**Thank you for coming out and enjoying the AVA Open House last month!**

## Officially Identifying Your Cows

The USDA's APHIS has continued to refine traceability regulations for livestock movement. Traceability involves the tagging and identification of livestock with official alphanumeric codes that improves the ability of APHIS to trace particular animals and their origins when disease is found.

Official identification for cattle include:

- NUES tag- official silver metal or plastic tag which starts with "21" or "NY" in NY.
- "840" visual only or RFID tag (this is a long, 15-digit number that starts with this symbol
- USA, American ID (truncated) tags and manufacturer code tags (starting with '9') are official for the animal's lifetime **ONLY IF APPLIED BEFORE 3/13/2015**



***Starting on 3/13/2015 if you are applying a tag to an animal, the only official IDs will be NUES silver metal tags or the "840-" tags.***

 The official eartag shield is the U.S. Route Shield graphic with "U.S." or the State postal abbreviation or Tribal alpha code imprinted within the shield.

Only one official ear tag per animal is allowed EXCEPT:

- Official calfhooed Brucellosis vaccinates with a NUES, "840-", "USA," or "900" tag applied first.
- When an "840-" tag with an RFID chip is needed for herd management upgrade after a NUES silver metal tag is already in place.

***Tattoos and brands are not forms of official ID in NY!***

It is strongly recommended to tag even your bull calves before shipping them off to market as many facilities will no longer tag them for you, and most importantly so that you can be sure that the product you are sending is rightfully identified as yours.

If you have any further questions about animal traceability, please call us or visit this website [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/eartag\\_listing.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/eartag_listing.pdf)

Congratulations to  
Dr. Ruth and Michael Nemet  
on their wedding day:  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 2014!



We are pleased to announce that legislation has been passed that provides robust protection for information a farm voluntarily provides to NYSCHAP as part of participation in the program. New York State Senate Bill 6357D, passed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, amends Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 16, Subdivision 41, *and now exempts from public disclosure “any proprietary farm protocol, animal or herd testing information and/or producer herd data maintained in confidence and voluntarily provided by an owner or operator of a farm operation...”* Further, information derived from these exempted submissions, but found in Department documents, is also protected from public disclosure if the data identifies or can be traced back to any particular farm.

We believe that our success in getting this legislative change reflects the legislature’s recognition of NYSCHAP’s tremendous value to New York farms and its understanding that the continued growth and success of this voluntary program required express statutory protection of confidential farm data. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dr. Melanie Hemenway, Program Coordinator at 585-313-7541.