



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
JEFFERSON CITY

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

DR. JON HAGLER  
DIRECTOR

*Serving, promoting and protecting the agricultural producers, processors  
and consumers of Missouri's food, fuel and fiber products.*

March 11, 2013

Dear Livestock Market Owners:

Missouri's reputation as a major producer of high quality livestock is no accident. Livestock markets like yours provide vital market access to farmers and ranchers, more so than in any other state. In addition, your customers work hard to protect their animals from diseases to ensure they are marketable and profitable. As such, your business plays a key role in animal disease prevention.

Knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are located, where they've been, and when they were there is very important to ensure a rapid response when an animal disease event takes place. An animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to markets and producers.

On January 9, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a final rule establishing general regulations for improving disease traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate. The effective date of the rule was March 11, 2013. Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates. Specifically, official identification is required for the following cattle and bison:

- All sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or over;
- All female dairy cattle of any age and all dairy males born after March 11, 2013;
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events; and
- Cattle and bison of any age used for shows or exhibitions

In order to protect our valuable reputation, Missouri has begun complying with the Federal rule as of March 11, 2013. Compliance is relatively straight forward as follows:

- For beef and dairy cattle moving into Missouri from other states, no changes are needed because Missouri requirements already met or exceeded the new Federal requirements related to disease traceability.
- For beef cattle moving within the state, no changes are needed for the same reason.
- For dairy cattle moving within the state, markets will have the option of identifying all dairy cattle or identifying all dairy females regardless of age and dairy males born after March 11, 2013.

District veterinarians will personally visit each market to work through the process of becoming an approved tagging site and to answer any questions. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to providing such valuable market access to Missouri's farmers and ranchers. By working together we can continue to build upon Missouri's heritage of providing the highest quality livestock for the world's food supply.

As always, if we can answer any questions please feel free to contact me (573) 526-0860, via email at [linda.hickam@mda.mo.gov](mailto:linda.hickam@mda.mo.gov) or contact your district veterinarian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Hickam, DVM".

Dr. Linda Hickam  
State Veterinarian