

Commissioner Dennert submitted the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION #2025-09**  
**OPPOSITION TO Mandatory Electronic Identification (MEID) LIVESTOCK TAGS**

**WHEREAS:** The traceability of livestock program is incremental. USDA APHIS stated on its website, updated October 11th, 2024 after approving the new rule, that it "is committed to implementing a modern system that tracks animals from birth to slaughter, and

**WHEREAS:** The cost of EID tags disproportionately burdens small and medium sized independent farmers and ranchers. The USDA rule allows large, corporate-owned herds to be grouped and tagged as one group, creating a huge loophole that keep costs low for larger companies, and

**WHEREAS:** The EID mandate would potentially interfere with price discovery found in traditional markets, thereby furthering vertical integration of the US food supply at the expense of the consumer and independent producer, and

**WHEREAS:** South Dakota Codified Law 40-3-27 provides for identification of animals and premises involved in animal movement. The Animal Industry Board may develop and implement specific programs for the identification of animals and premises involved in animal movements. Any program implemented pursuant to 40-3-27 to 40-3-29, inclusive, must provide for confidentiality of identification records other than those records requested by law enforcement officers of the state and those records used for mandatory disease control or eradication efforts. A Livestock owner may choose to identify animals using any methods set forth in 9 C.F.R. part 86, as adopted on January 9, 2013, as well as any additional methods that are later approved by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board pursuant to this section, and

**WHEREAS:** The EID mandate is far overreaching, intrusive and potentially circumvents privacy laws, threatening the livelihood of independent cattle and bison producers, and

**WHEREAS:** Independent, family-owned cattle ranches are of paramount importance to our local economy and to the economy as a whole, and

**WHEREAS:** The comments received by USDA APHIS in the rulemaking process were overwhelmingly against the new rule, and

**WHEREAS:** America has the safest and highest quality meat in the world using our current, fully functioning and effective traceability system. The mandated rule claims to be about animal health, but does nothing to prevent or treat disease, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Brown County Commissioners vehemently opposes the implementation of any EID mandate by the USDA, with the suggestion that funds currently earmarked for this program be reallocated to efforts to restore import standards that protect all livestock producers and consumers

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Board of Brown County Commissioners requests that all elected officials make every effort to block this government overreach by the USDA.

Dated this 4th day of February 2025.

Moved by Commissioner Gage, seconded by Dinger.

Roll call vote: Dennert-aye; Dinger-aye; Gage-aye; Sutton-aye; Wiese-aye. Resolution adopted.

Brown County Commission: \_\_\_\_\_  
Duane Sutton, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor

