

RESOLUTION 2025-11
OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION LIVESTOCK TAGS

WHEREAS the traceability program is incremental. USDA APHIS stated on its website, updated October 11, 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 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 movement. Any program implemented pursuant to SDCL 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 a 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 that Stanley County vehemently opposes the implementation of 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 from introduction to foreign animal disease.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stanley County requests that all elected officials make every effort to block this government overreach by the USDA.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2025.

ATTEST:

STANLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(SEAL)


Philena Burtch, Auditor


Craig Heller, Chairman