



Breeder Deer Identification Requirements Overview

Prepared January 2020, Appendix Added March 2020

Introduction

This document is intended to provide a summary of identification requirements that apply to all Texas breeder deer.

- New identification requirements apply to all breeder deer born after January 1, 2020.
- Refer to Parks and Wildlife Code (PWC) 43.3561 to read the statute on breeder deer identification (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PW/htm/PW.43.htm#43.3561>).
- Instructions for requesting new unique numbers are available at the end of this document.

Identification Requirements for Deer Born Before January 1, 2020

All breeder deer born before January 1, 2020 must be identified with an ear tag that legibly displays a department issued 4-character unique number by the March 31 following the deer's birth (i.e., breeder deer born in 2019 must be tagged appropriately no later than March 31, 2020).

- The 4-character unique number must be tattooed in the deer's ear before it is transferred out of a facility.
- Both the tag and tattoo must remain legible.
- If a tag bearing a 4-character unique number is replaced for any reason, the replacement tag must be marked with the same 4-character unique number and continue to meet these standards.
- 5-character unique numbers described below MAY NOT be used on breeder deer born before January 1, 2020.

Identification Requirements for Deer Born After January 1, 2020

All breeder deer born after January 1, 2020 must be identified with both an acceptable ear tag that displays a department-issued 5-character unique number and an acceptable Electronic Identification Device (EID) by March 31 following the deer's birth.

- The 5-character unique number must be properly tattooed in the deer's ear before it is transferred out of a facility.
- All acceptable ear tags, EID devices, and tattoos must meet new requirements set forth in PWC 43.3561, summarized on page 2 of this document.

Ear Tag Requirements for Deer Born After January 1, 2020

Acceptable ear tags must meet all of the following standards:

- The department issued 5-character unique number must be printed on the face of a commercially manufactured tag with text that is at least 1/2-inch tall, 5/16-inch wide and spaced at least 1/16-inch apart.
- The 5-character unique number must also be printed on the button back of the tag.
- Sufficient contrast must exist between the color of the text and the color of the tag in order for the text to be clearly visible.
- Additional information (i.e., breeder ID) may be commercially printed or handwritten on the tag provided that it is placed below and separated from the unique number by a commercially printed dividing line. In other words, the unique number must remain at the top of the face of the tag, with the breeder ID below it and separated by a commercially printed line.
- The unique number may be handwritten for replacement tags and for fawns born during the 2020 and 2021 fawning seasons but must maintain the same text size and spacing requirements described above. Beginning with the 2022 fawn season, all fawns must be marked with a commercially manufactured tag bearing a printed unique number as specified above.
- Acceptable ear tags must be applied to the ear so that the face of the tag is clearly visible on the anterior side of the ear (i.e., the face of the tag must be visible when the deer is looking at you).

EID Device Requirements for Deer Born After January 1, 2020

EID devices must be approved by USDA and have an associated 15-digit animal identification number that begins with 840.

- Each facility must register for a Premise ID Number (PIN) with Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to order USDA-approved 840-series tags. To obtain a PIN, contact the TAHC Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) department at 1-800-550-8242 ext. 733. Have the following information ready prior to calling: facility owner name and contact information (mailing address and phone number), facility's physical address, species to be tagged.
- If the EID device is a button tag, it must be attached to either ear of the breeder deer.
- If the EID device is an implant (i.e., microchip/PIT tag), the implant may not be implanted in edible muscle.
- No person may remove the EID device at any time, including upon release of the deer.
- The EID number must be entered into TWIMS in association with the 5-character unique number assigned to the deer.

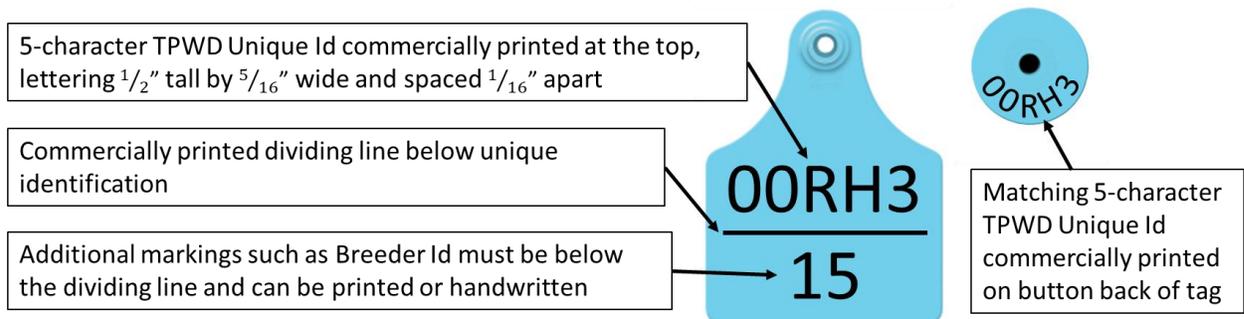
Tattoo Requirements for Deer Born After January 1, 2020

The 5-character unique number assigned to the deer must be tattooed in the deer's ear before the deer is transferred out of a facility.

- Tattoos must be applied to the inner portion of either ear.
- Tattoos must be applied with commercially available #300 or 5/16-inch tattoo letters and numbers.
- Tattoos must be legible, permanent, and applied with green or black tattoo ink.
- Tattoos must bear the same 5-character unique identification number printed on the ear tag.

Example Ear Tag for Deer Born After January 1, 2020

An example of an ear tag compliant with the new regulations is shown below. Many tag vendors will accept custom orders for commercially manufactured tags, and several online vendors already offer a TPWD compliant tag option. Ensure that ear tags you order meet the standards shown here. EID devices can also be ordered from most ear tag vendors. Make sure to have your PIN available when ordering EID devices. TPWD has contacted representatives of AllFlex, Datamars, and YTex tag manufacturing companies and anticipates that we will be able to share a list of specific SKU numbers for tag options from each manufacturer that are ensured to comply with the new identification requirements. Updated information on manufacturer-specific SKUs will be provided as it becomes available.



Unique Number Request and Printing Instructions

Log in to your TWIMS account and follow the instructions below.

Instructions for Requesting Unique Numbers

1. Click on the "Facility" tab.
2. Under "Request More Unique Numbers for" select the appropriate TX# and name from the available drop-down list.
3. If prior to April 1, 2020, check the appropriate box to indicate whether you are requesting 4- or 5-character Unique Numbers. If after April 1, 2020, skip this step and proceed to step 4.
4. Type in the number of new Unique Numbers you would like to request in the space provided next to "How Many?"
5. Click "Submit." Deer Breeder Staff will be notified of the request. The requested Unique Numbers are not automatically generated; Deer Breeder Staff must review the request first. Please note that TPWD will not issue more unique numbers than double the total number of deer permitted to be held in the facility. An email notification will be sent from TWIMS when the new unique numbers are issued.

View and Print Unused Unique Numbers

1. Click on the "Facility" tab.
2. If prior to April 1, 2020, note that you can request to view a list of either 4- or 5-character Unique Numbers. If after April 1, 2020, you will only be able to view a list of 5-character Unique Numbers.
3. Under "View Unused Unique Numbers for" select the appropriate TX# and name from the available drop-down list.
4. Click "Submit."
5. A page will load that lists all unused Unique Numbers that have been assigned to that Breeder Serial Number and the date that they were issued. The listed Unique Numbers are available to assign to fawns born in any of the breeder facilities permitted to that deer breeder.
6. The list of unused Unique Numbers can be exported to a PDF document for printing or to Excel format for tag ordering purposes on some websites. Click on the appropriate option at the bottom of the list.

APPENDIX

Prepared March 2020

Introduction

This appendix provides answers for several questions posed during the Breeder Deer Identification Webinars presented by TPWD staff on February 11 and 12, 2020. A recording of the webinar can be viewed online at https://youtu.be/6cwvbTwT_Tg

Questions

- 1. May a replacement ear tag be handwritten, and if so, how long can the handwritten ear tag remain on the deer?**
 - Yes, replacement ear tags may be handwritten, provided they meet the text size and spacing requirements specified in Parks and Wildlife Code (PWC) 43.3561. A handwritten replacement ear tag can remain in the deer's ear for as long as needed and does not have to be replaced with a commercially printed ear tag.
- 2. Can an Electronic Identification (EID) button tag be removed once a deer is deceased?**
 - Yes, an EID button tag device may be removed from a deceased breeder deer, regardless of whether it dies in a permitted breeding facility or is harvested on a release site. If you participate in the TAHC Herd Certification Program or have a TAHC Herd Plan, make sure you follow TAHC rules set forth for EID device and ear tissue retention.
- 3. Can you provide clarification regarding the use of NUES tags?**
 - Per regulations in effect since 2016, breeder deer transferred from a Transfer Category 3 breeding facility or to a Class 3 release site are required to be marked with either a NUES tag or a button-type EID device approved by the department.
 - Breeder deer born prior to January 1, 2020 may continue to be marked with a NUES tag per the regulations in place at the time of the deer's birth.
 - If a breeder deer born prior to January 1, 2020 loses a NUES tag, the tag can be replaced with another NUES tag. You must notify TPWD to update the NUES tag information for the deer in question.
 - Breeder deer born after January 1, 2020 must be marked with an acceptable EID button tag or implant (i.e., microchip/PIT tag) device approved by the USDA and have an associated 15-digit animal identification number that begins with 840. A NUES tag is not an acceptable substitute for the EID device requirement for breeder deer born after January 1, 2020.
- 4. Can the EID number assigned to a deer in TWIMS be updated if the deer loses its button tag?**
 - Yes, EID numbers assigned to breeder deer in TWIMS can be updated by TPWD staff. Breeders and/or agents will need to send the Wildlife Permitting Office an email that contains the unique number, the old RFID, and the replacement RFID number.