Dear Sir/Madam,

I draw your kind attention to NADCP, a Central Sector Scheme of the Department, launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister on 11th September, 2019. Operational guidelines were circulated to States for implementation of the scheme wherein it was mandated that identification of animals by ear tagging and their registration on the INAPH portal is an essential pre-requisite for recording of vaccination data on INAPH. Accordingly, ear tagging and vaccination against FMD has commenced in the states as per their schedules of vaccination. It is understood that states have already developed SOPs for ear-tagging based on the Operational Guidelines of NADCP.

However, in the light of COVID-19 situation and the preventive measures taken to combat the disease including lockdown, there has been some hindrance/pause in the states with respect to activities under NADCP. After allowing for select permitted activities as per the extant MHA guidelines, DAHD had requested States/UTs to resume ear tagging and FMD vaccination by following due preventive measures and maintaining social distancing.

As ear tagging and vaccination has resumed in the States, it is important to make the persons involved in ear tagging aware about correct positioning of ear tags while tagging so as to avoid injury and possible post-insertion infection in the animals. Therefore, a copy of the requisite SOP for ear-tagging is enclosed for ready reference.

You are, therefore, requested to direct all concerned to meticulously follow the SOP and be aware of the correct positioning of ear tagging and expedite ear tagging of the remaining bovine animals as well as complete FMD vaccination of the identified animals for recording vaccination data on INAPH at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Upamanyu Basu)

Encl: a a

The ACS/ Principal Secretary/Secretary/Administrators Animal Husbandry Department (all States/UTs)

Copy to: Director/Commissioner, Animal Husbandry of all States/UTs/CEO, LDBs of all States

Tel. No.: +91-11-23382354, Fax No.: +91-11-23386674, E-mail: jslh-dadf@nic.in
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR EAR TAGGING

1. Ear tags of an appropriate material, size and color (as supplied under NADCP or of same specifications if purchased by State) must be used to minimise potential negative impacts on the animal. The tag used should be appropriate for the animal’s size, future growth, body shape and behavior.

2. Only polyurethane laser printed ear tags having a 12 digit number and a bar code shall be used. The numbering system followed shall be unique with the last digit of the number being a “check digit” to ensure that no two animals are tagged with the same number. Only numbers supplied by NDDB shall be used for unique identification of animals

3. **Step by step Tagging:**

   A. Restrain the animal so that it cannot move its head. The presence of animal owner or a person with whom the animal is familiar is very helpful in developing confidence within the animal for least struggling during the procedure.

   B. Cleanse the site of application with potent disinfectant.

   C. Use the tag applicator appropriate for the type of tag being used. (Most of the tools used to insert ear tags through the ear are sharp and can cause injury both to the animal and handler, hence utmost care should be taken).

   D. Place the tag (visual or UID) under the clip by depressing the lever.

   E. The UID has a lump on its printed face. Position the tag should be as such, so that the lump faces out of the open end of the applicator. (Failure to do so may result in incorrect application of the tag).

   F. Slide the male part on the pin. (Use the special long stem male with UID tag).

   ![Image of ear tagging process](image-url)

   G. Dip the tag into antiseptic solution. This assists application and promotes healing.

   H. Position the tag halfway between ear tip and head and between cartilages. With the correct position located, apply the tag firmly, always with the male tag entering from the back (outside) of the ear.
I. The tag is attached, quickly and without hesitation, to the lower, proximal region of the pinna, avoiding blood vessels.

J. The site, post insertion is to be treated with an antiseptic agent to minimise the risk of infection.

K. It must be ensured that the tag is attached correctly and will not impair the behavior of the animal.

L. In case of any infection post insertion local veterinarian shall be contacted for immediate treatment.

4. If the ear tag falls off, a new ear tag shall be applied within 10 days and the information shall be immediately updated in INAPH.