Media release - 13 September 2011

Updated tagging advice for farmers

Farmers are being given updated advice about tagging rules for cattle and deer in the run up to the introduction of the mandatory National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) scheme for cattle next year.

The Animal Health Board (AHB) and NAIT Ltd have produced an easy-to-follow guide for farmers based on the most common scenarios covering movement of animals for grazing, sale or slaughter.

The information is to help farmers prepare for the NAIT scheme, expected to be mandatory from 1 July 2012, pending the passing of legislation. The guide to ear tagging requirements is available on both organisations' websites at www.tbfree.org.nz and www.nait.co.nz

NAIT Chief Executive Russell Burnard said the simple matrix will provide farmers with an at-a-glance guide to their tagging requirements to prepare for next year's implementation of the NAIT scheme.

"Our message to farmers continues to be: keep on tagging your animals with NAIT-approved RFID tags. Tag your animals when they are young and easier to handle to prepare for the NAIT scheme next year and to avoid double-handling or re-tagging costs."

Acting Animal Health Board Chief Executive, Nick Hancox, said the focus was on having practicable advice, while minimising inconvenience to farmers during the transition period.

"Farmers should be confident that both organisations are working to ensure the transition process continues to support animal identification requirements under the bovine tuberculosis control programme," he explained.

Further information can be obtained from the AHB on 0800 437 243 or NAIT on 0800 624 843.

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Further information:

NAIT Ltd
Emma Reilly, 04 894 0581 / 021 680 167

Animal Health Board
John Deal, tel: 027 475 0654

NAIT
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Updated tagging advice for farmers

Prior to 1 November 2011 (applies to all cattle aged over 30 days)*

	AHB-approved primary (barcode) tag	NAIT-approved primary (RFID) tag	AHB-approved secondary tag
Moving cattle to slaughter	✓ Alternatively, a direct-to-slaughter tag can be used as a primary tag	Not required	Not required
Moving cattle for sale or grazing	✓ Either an AHB-approved tag, OR a NAIT-approved RFID tag is required		✓
Cattle remaining on property	No current legal requirement to tag		

From 1 November 2011 to 1 July 2012 (applies to all cattle aged over 30 days)*

	AHB-approved primary (barcode) tag	NAIT-approved primary (RFID) tag	AHB-approved secondary tag
Moving cattle to slaughter	✓ Either an AHB-approved tag, OR a NAIT-approved RFID tag is required. Alternatively, a direct-to-slaughter tag can be used as a primary tag		Not required
Moving cattle for sale or grazing	✓ Either an AHB-approved tag, OR a NAIT-approved RFID tag is required		✓
Cattle remaining on property	No current legal requirement to tag		

From 1 July 2012 (applies to all cattle)*

	AHB-approved primary (barcode) tag	NAIT-approved primary (RFID) tag	Approved secondary tag
Moving cattle to slaughter	Not required	✓	Not required
Moving cattle for sale or grazing	Not required	✓ Both a NAIT-approved RFID tag and approved secondary tag are required**	
Cattle remaining on property	Not required	✓ Both a NAIT-approved RFID tag and approved secondary tag are required*	

Key:

✓ Required

* Bobby calves (animals less than 30 days old going directly to slaughter) require a tag issued by the meat processing companies

** Capital stock have a three-year grace period for NAIT-approved RFID tags, unless being moved off-farm. Newborns must be tagged within 180 days of birth, or prior to their first off-farm movement

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