

2023

Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting System

Annual Report to the Legislature

As Required by RCW 16.57.450



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Agriculture

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ECTR System

ECTR is an online program that Washington livestock producers may use to report the sale or out-of-state movement of their cattle. Users must register for an account and pay a \$33 annual registration fee. All cattle reported in ECTR must have electronic official individual identification (RFID), commonly known as an “840” RFID tag. Users must submit proof of ownership documentation for all branded cattle that are reported in ECTR. This can be done using the owners’ recorded Washington brand or other proof of ownership documents listed in rule. At the conclusion of the transaction, users are able to print an ECTR certificate that transfers title of their cattle to the new owner. In the case of out-of-state movements, the ECTR certificate is evidence of legal ownership. With ECTR in place, Washington cattle producers have three options to receive a required livestock inspection. They may use a WSDA brand inspector, they may use a certified veterinarian or private field inspector, or they may use ECTR.

ADT Benefits

Animal disease traceability or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, what animals they have come in contact with, and when is very important to ensure a rapid response when adverse animal disease events take place. An efficient and accurate ADT system, and identifying animals with electronic official individual identification, can limit the economic strain on owners and communities through shorter investigations, faster control of the disease, and fewer animals subject to quarantine or euthanasia.

For these reasons, the department remains committed to crafting a robust structure that protects our state’s cattle industry, allows us to quickly trace any animal disease outbreak, and bolsters consumer confidence in Washington dairy and beef products. It is vital that all sectors of the cattle industry participate in traceability and at the level of integrity needed for a successful program and response.

To assist in advancing animal disease traceability and to promote the use of RFID tags, WSDA offers a promotion to producers who register for ECTR. Producers are eligible to receive free RFID tags*

- 40 tags and one RFID tag applicator for producers with herds of 50 head or less.
- 100 tags and one RFID tag applicator for producers with herds of more than 50 head.

ECTR allows the department to maintain traceability information that can be used in the event of a disease outbreak. It also provides producers with:

- Real-time, 24/7 electronic reporting.
- Electronic payment options (ACH/eCheck and Credit Card).
- Availability wherever an internet connection exists.
- Reports on transaction history.

ECTR Activity Status

Last year, between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, there were 70 registered users and 794 transactions conducted in the system. These transactions included 48 out of state movements and 746 change of ownerships; involving 15,966 head of cattle. This is an increase of 24% from last year's use by producers. Total revenue collected for this time period was \$23,066.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, there were 82 registered users and 821 transactions conducted in the system. These transactions included 73 out of state movements and 748 change of ownerships; involving 13,512 head of cattle. This is a decrease of 18% from last year's use by producers. The total revenue collected for this time period was \$13,584.

WSDA received a petition for rulemaking from the WSDA's Livestock Identification Advisory Committee in 2022 to amend chapter 16-610 of the Washington Administrative Code to reduce the ECTR per head fee. On July 4, 2022, rulemaking changes went into effect, reducing the ECTR per head fee from \$1.30 per head to \$0.80 per head.

The purpose of this report is to document all examinations and inspections of cattle and records of ECTR license holders performed by the department. This includes details of any actions taken by the department following the examinations and inspections. Audits were conducted on all ECTR transactions. The audits revealed that the majority of cattle were either reported to be branded with the owner's Washington recorded brand or unbranded.

ECTR Outreach

WSDA conducted outreach focused on educating beef and dairy producers of the system's availability and the importance of participating in traceability. This included:

- Provided an ECTR presentation at the Pacific Northwest Veterinary Conference in October 2022.
- Presented with a booth at Washington Cattlemen's Association Conference in November 2022 promoting the use of ECTR.
- LID Advisory Committee Meeting April 2023 to discuss ECTR enhancements.
- Submitted an industry article in June 2023 to Washington Cattlemen's Association, Washington Cattle Feeders Association, Washington Dairy Federation, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association and Washington State University Extension.
- Information about ECTR was shared at Certified Field Livestock Inspector trainings. WSDA conducts 11 certification trainings per year to Certified Field Livestock Inspectors.

WSDA also updated its ECTR webpage to outline what is ECTR, the requirements to use the system, the costs associated, and the promotions available.

Moving Forward

To continue advancing animal disease traceability and promoting the use of ECTR and the use of RFID tags, WSDA will offer an additional promotion to producers. At the time of renewal, producers will be offered free RFID tags for the volume of cattle they recorded in ECTR the year prior.

New producers who apply for ECTR will still be eligible for free RFID tags:

- 40 tags and one RFID tag applicator for producers with herds of 50 head or less.
- 100 tags and one RFID tag applicator for producers with herds of more than 50 head.