

# **LEADER**

## **Frequently Asked Questions July 2009**

**LEADER HDX RFID TAGS MAY NOW BE ORDERED AS A SECONDARY TAG BUT MUST BE APPLIED TO THE RIGHT EAR WITH THE FEMALE FACING THE FRONT**

### **1. What is RFID?**

RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification and is the same as EID (Electronic Identification). RFID tags carry a transponder (chip & coil) that carry a unique identifying code on them. These can be “read” by a reader and by linking the unique transponder number with the unique animal number marked on the tag. This information is used to electronically record information about the animal (such as weighing information).

### **2. What is HDX or FDX?**

HDX tags have half duplex transponders in them, whereas FDX have full duplex transponders in them. HDX tags (Recommended) have been around longer and communicate with the reader in a manner similar to a two way radio (only one signal at a time). FDX are a newer technology and communicate with the reader in a similar manner as a telephone – two signals can be transmitted at the same time. The main thing is to ensure that your reader is compatible with both technologies. Readers approved for New Zealand will conform to this ISO standard.

### **3. Are LEADER Leadertronic Tags ISO compliant and what does it stand for?**

ISO is an international standard that RFID tags must meet. LEADER has approved ISO compliant tags so you can be assured that they will be able to be used in systems that are also ISO compliant in New Zealand.

### **4. Can I have a management number on my LEADER RFID tag?**

LEADER RFID tags are NOT printed with the unique ISO number encoded on the transponder. The standard AHB or LIC format using herd number, logo and individual identification number will be marked on the tag with the transponder number linked to it in the National Database.

The male component may be printed with farm management information and /or colour coded if approved.

RFID tags for sheep whether tamperproof or re-useable however may be marked as the farmer desires.

## **Frequently Asked Questions Contd:**

### **5. Should I use Tamperproof or Reusable LEADER RFID?**

To conform to a future mandatory system for full traceability it is required that a single use LEADERTRONIC RFID tamperproof tag be used to ensure that each animal retains its unique ID. A unique number also ensures data integrity. As these tags will be required for cattle and deer, farmers will only need a low cost handheld reader to get advantage from EID.

If using re-useable tags you should note that some software programs are not able to re-use the same ID number without deleting the information collected against the original animal.

However reusable tags can be used for “closed system” operations where use on different animals will not impede the integrity of individual unique animal identification under the National ID Scheme. These are typically used when RFID is used to speed up the day to day operations such as weighing and animal health applications later to be reused again to offset cost.

### **6. Can I use RFID with my existing farm management software?**

Generally yes, the RFID tag number can be “linked” to the animals` visual farm management ID numbers. Data can then be imported into your existing software and matched up to other animal data.

### **7. How do I know what I need for my farm?**

RETAILERS will have specialists who will help you get set up correctly. They will analyse your needs which would include present and future requirements, existing facilities and equipment- then suggest the best solution for your property. If you wish to discuss your needs please contact your local retail store or LEADER.

### **8. Which tagger do I use?**

All LEADER RFID and farm management tags are applied with our “Quick Release Fasttaggers. No modification is required. Ask about LEADER’s FREE applicator deals.

### **9. Where in the ear does the RFID Tag go?**

The female tag carrying the RFID component should always be placed on the inside of the ear and should be applied in the middle of the ear as close to the base of the ear as possible.

### **10. How do you read the ear tag?**

RFID can be read by portable hand held readers or fixed “race readers”. The handheld models generally need to be very close to the tag to read it (20-30cm) whereas the better “race readers” can read the tag up to 1.2 m away depending on the environment.