

Technology needs to utilize the EID tags for show management

Tag reader – There are several options. While most counties own their reader, some districts own one reader for use by all counties in that unit. Some counties also share a reader. While we may be able to locate pre-owned readers for less, the range in price will be from \$500 to \$1400, depending on the functions.

USB to serial adapter – If your computer does not have a serial port, (not many do) you will need a USB to serial adapter. If you are using Windows 7, you must make sure the adapter is compatible. These are available from \$12 - \$35.

Data acquisition (wedge) program – This software is needed to translate the signal from the reader to the computer. As with readers, there are options. Allflex USA provides a free program that works with most of the Allflex readers and computer operating systems. It will not work to bring the signal in from a scale head. Another option is the KeyInjector program. This is available on the internet in the \$30-\$40 range. There are more, like the CPS program that several of the counties use.

Computer – A laptop will be needed. If it is using the Windows 7 operating system, you need to make sure any software and/or hardware you plan to use is compatible. If you plan to use a Bluetooth reader, it is suggested that the computer have internal Bluetooth, although programs may be purchased and loaded on the computer.

Show management software – Dave Kehler will provide a simple show management program that is EID tag compatible to participating counties. It is an Excel spreadsheet. Some counties have chosen to purchase a commercial program, the Fair Management Program (FMS) sold by Bluestem Technology that is compatible with the tags.

Optional:

Bar code scanner – This can be used to read the bar codes of the 15 digit EID number or the bag and tag numbers into programs and spreadsheets. The 2012 version of FMS will accept bar code scans. These cost \$150 and up.

Digital scale indicator with printer port - if you have this option, the animal weight can be transferred directly from the scales to the computer. If your scale head does not have this, a printer output port can be added to some.

A second computer monitor – Some counties that use the Bluestem Fair Management utilize the option that shows the owner and animal tag number and the weight on this monitor placed near the scales.