

# How can I use RFID tags to track my livestock?

Last Modified on 09/08/2021 10:42 am MDT

If you've ever run into a situation where one of your animal's tags was lost or unreadable, you're aware of how frustrating it can be to identify your livestock if this occurs. Farmbrite knows it's critical for you to know which animal is which, as you'll need to track animal history, health, and even genealogy. To simplify the process of recording animal measurements and treatments, we've built an easier way for you to identify animals and record information using RFID tags and a scanning tool.

*If you are interested in learning more about the benefits and use of these tags prior to setting them up in Farmbrite, [check out this Farmbrite blog post](#) for a full rundown of how they might simplify your processes and streamline your ranch operations.*

## Getting Started

You'll first need an RFID scanner wand, and RFID tags for your animals. You might pick these up at a local supply store, or an online farm and ranch site. While this step is outside of Farmbrite, we can tell you that **we do not require nor recommend any specific RFID reader**; as long as it can output the data it collects to a spreadsheet, it will work with your Farmbrite account.

*So how does this actually work?*

After you've tagged your animals with the RFID tags, you'll use the wand to read the tag and identify the animal. You'll record measurements for the animal, which you'll get into a spreadsheet. This might be by physically connecting the wand to your computer, or via email or Bluetooth. Once you have the spreadsheet with your data, you can then load it into Farmbrite.

## Importing Your Records

To import your records, navigate to **Livestock**, then choose **Animals**. From there, click the **Import** button.



Search...

Schedule

Tasks

Livestock

Animals

Groups

Grazing

Inventory

Crops

Resources

Accounting

Market

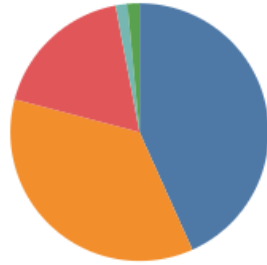
Contacts

Farm Map

Reports

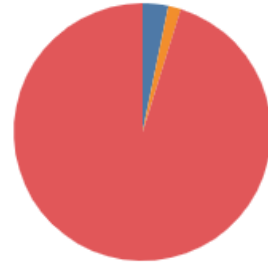
## Animals

### ANIMAL TYPES



Bison (43.28%)  
Rabbit (36.82%)  
Elk (17.91%)  
Dog (1.49%)  
Cat (1.49%)

### BREEDING STATUSES



New Animal

New Group



ANIMAL	TYPE ^	GENDER
Bison 02	Bison	Female
Bison 03	Bison	Female

A new window will open with instructions for importing your records. You'll have your spreadsheet from the RFID scanner already, so you can skip Steps 1 and 2. In Step 3, you'll likely choose to **Update Existing Records**, as this selection allows you to associate the information you are importing with the existing livestock already added to your Farmbrite account.

### Import Records

1 Upload File 2 Data Mapping 3 Results

Step 1. Download the CSV Template File

Step 2. Update the CSV template with your records

- Using a program such as Excel, Google Sheets, Open Office or similar
- Leaving a header row in the file
- Save the file as a Comma Separated Value file (.csv)
- Important: Dates must be in a MM/DD/YYYY format - example: 12/31/2021

Step 3. Add or Update Records

- Add New Records  
 Update Existing Records

Step 4. Upload & Import File

Choose File No file chosen

Import CSV File

Cancel

Note that Farmbrite is able to associate the records on your spreadsheet with existing animals by matching an ID that you provide in the spreadsheet with an ID of an existing animal in your account. This can be done using the field Tag Number, Other Tag Number, or Electronic ID. At least one of these numbers will need to match an animal in your Farmbrite account to successfully import your records. Using this connection with your existing animals allows you to repeat this process as often as you like to record additional measurements for your animals over time.

The screenshot shows the Farmbrite interface with a spreadsheet titled 'farmbrite-Animal-import-template (2)'. The spreadsheet has the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	electronicid	tag_number	other tagnumber	measurement_date	weight	height	conditionscore
2	25744663	DGRS6A	56645098	9/8/2021	468	57	5
3	25744664	DGRS6B	56645099	9/8/2021	427	59	6
4	25744665	DGRS6C	56645100	9/8/2021	482	54	5
5	25744666	DGRS6D	56645101	9/8/2021	463	49	7
6	25744667	DGRS6E	56645102	9/8/2021	502	60	4
7	25744668	DGRS6F	56645103	9/8/2021	433	46	3

The spreadsheet is linked to the animal details for 'Bison 02 [DGRS6A]'. The 'Identification' section shows the following values:

- Tag Number: DGRS6A
- Other Tag Number: 56645098
- Electronic ID: 25744663
- Registry Number: (empty)

You'll then choose your spreadsheet file from your computer, and import it.

The 'Import Records' dialog box shows the following steps:

- 1 Upload File
- 2 Data Mapping
- 3 Results

**Step 1. Download the CSV Template File** [Download](#)

**Step 2. Update the CSV template with your records**

- Using a program such as Excel, Google Sheets, Open Office or similar
- Leaving a header row in the file
- Save the file as a Comma Separated Value file (.csv)
- Important: Dates must be in a MM/DD/YYYY format - example: 12/31/2021

**Step 3. Add or Update Records**

- Add New Records
- Update Existing Records

**Step 4. Upload & Import File**

No file chosen

Farmbrite will read the column headers from your spreadsheet, and then ask you to map them to standard fields within the system. Since your particular scanner might name these columns differently, this step allows you to connect the data your scanner provided to the right fields in Farmbrite. As an example, your scanner might record "HT" and "WT", which you would then map to the "Height" and "Weight" fields within Farmbrite.

The screenshot shows the 'Import Records' interface in Farmbrite, specifically the 'Data Mapping' step. The interface is divided into two columns: 'YOUR FILE HEADERS' and 'FARMBRITE NAME'. The 'YOUR FILE HEADERS' column lists the following fields: 'electronicid' (value: 23744663), 'tag\_number' (value: DGR564), 'other tagnumber' (value: 56643098), 'measurement\_date' (value: 9/8/2021), 'weight' (value: 468), 'height' (value: 57), and 'conditionscore' (value: 5). The 'FARMBRITE NAME' column lists the corresponding system fields: 'electronic\_id', 'tag\_number', 'other\_tag\_number', 'measurement\_date', 'weight', 'height', and 'condition\_score'. A green arrow points from the 'electronicid' header to the 'electronic\_id' dropdown menu. The 'Import Records' button is highlighted in green at the bottom right.

Once you've mapped the fields appropriately, click the Import Records button in the bottom right.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the 'Data Mapping' step. The 'Import Records' button at the bottom right is now highlighted with a green border, indicating it is the next step in the process.

Your records will be imported, and associated with the correct animals based on the electronic ID supplied.

Remember that you can repeat this process over and over, every time you use your RFID scanner to record measurements that you want to add to Farmbrite. As long as you continue to choose Update Existing Records, the imported data will be associated with your existing livestock.

If you still have questions regarding adding your RFID scanned records into Farmbrite, feel free to [reach out to us!](#)