

# Traceability in Alberta



September 2015

## Traceability and the Dairy Cattle Industry

Traceability is a crucial component of an effective animal health and food safety system that enables precise and rapid emergency response to protect livestock, producers and consumers. Determining where livestock have been and what other livestock they have come into contact with allows for efficient emergency planning and response. Traceability in Alberta relies on the three fundamental pillars of premises identification, animal identification and animal movement.

### 1 Premises Identification

Premises Identification (PID) is a way of linking livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. The information collected through the provincial PID System allows industry and government to efficiently locate animals and notify owners of an emergency that might affect their animals.

In Alberta, if you own a livestock animal (including equine) or poultry and that animal is kept at a premises other than a commingling site, you need to apply for a PID Account and obtain at least one PID Number associated to where the animal(s) are located. If you own an animal that is only kept at locations controlled by someone else, such as a stable, and that animal will never be kept at a premises under your care and control, such as your farm or acreage, you are not required to have a PID Account. However, you will need to obtain the PID Number from the operator of the site.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. a stable, community pasture, fair ground, etc.), you are required to obtain a PID Account, register all your commingling sites and provide the PID Number(s) to the users of your site(s).

You may be asked for a PID Number when transporting your animals as it is to be recorded on some transportation documents. You will require a PID Number when buying medication at a licensed retail outlet or for transactions

involving livestock at an auction market. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements.

Holding a PID Account is a legal responsibility that may require action in the event of an emergency. Youth may apply for an independent PID Account at age 16, but are encouraged to use a parent's PID Account and number(s) unless he/she anticipates owning livestock after the age of 18 and are fully prepared to take on the responsibility of their own PID Account.

**To register a premises, or for more information about premises identification, contact:**

Alberta Ag-Info Centre  
Toll free in Alberta: 310-FARM (3276)  
[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)



Alberta  
Government

[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability)



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## 2 Animal Identification

Animal Identification, for dairy cattle, is the ability to identify individual animals. Animal identification works with the other pillars of traceability, premises identification and animal movement, to track where animals have been transported and when.

National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) distributes approved dairy cattle tag sets in Canada and all male and female dairy cattle, whether they are registered or non-registered, can be tagged with these tag sets. Registered dairy cattle must be tagged with approved NLID tag sets within 24 hours of birth, if they are to be registered in the herd book. The approved official tag set consists of a panel tag and a radio frequency identification (RFID) button/panel tag. Non-registered dairy cattle can either be tagged with the approved

NLID dairy tag sets or with a single approved Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) RFID beef tag.

**For more information on animal identification or to order your tags, contact:**

National Livestock Identification for Dairy  
Box 2065 Brantford, Ontario N3T 5W5  
1-877-771-6543 [www.nlid.org](http://www.nlid.org)



## 3 Animal Movement

Animal Movement is the act of tracing livestock and poultry backwards or forwards through the production supply chain based on animal movement records. Movement records are vital because the faster we can locate where livestock has been, the more effectively we can determine which livestock are at risk of being affected in a disease outbreak.

In Alberta, all cattle must be identified by an approved RFID tag applied to the animal before it is moved from its farm of origin or before 10 months of age (whichever occurs first). Subject to a few exceptions, an Alberta Livestock Manifest is required to transport or drive cattle within Alberta and to inspection sites such as livestock markets, livestock assembly stations, feedlots and abattoirs. Cattle owners require a Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) Livestock Permit to

document the movement of cattle to a destination outside the province as well as when cattle leave an inspection site. LIS Special Permits are used to transport cattle more than once in a calendar year, both within and outside of Alberta.

**For assistance, contact your local Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) Livestock Inspector:**

Livestock Identification Services Ltd.  
109, 264 Midpark Way S.E. Calgary, AB T2X 1J6  
1-866-509-2088 [www.lis-alberta.com](http://www.lis-alberta.com)



## + Age Verification

Age verification links an individual animal's birth date information to an approved RFID tag number.

Cattle born in Alberta in 2009, or later, need to be age verified in the CCIA database called the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) before 10 months of age or before leaving the farm of origin (whichever occurs first). NLID can forward age verification information to CCIA on behalf of the producer.

**For more information on age verification, contact:**

Canadian Cattle Identification Agency  
7646 - 8 Street N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 8X4  
1-877-909-2333 [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca)



# Traceability Protects!

Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future