

Producing Profits with RFID



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The RFID Advantage

In the sheep industry, as in any business, we are always looking for ways to be more efficient, increase profitability, and to make our jobs easier. The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) has transitioned to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and technology to provide improved management tools and to prepare the industry for national traceability.

The RFID factsheet series will help producers take maximum advantage of these opportunities.

Small Changes Can Yield Big Benefits

Producers with smaller flocks can comply with CSIP RFID requirements, and upcoming traceability legislation, without a large investment in equipment or technology. All you need are the right tags and the right tagger.

Research conducted, and experience gained, through the Alberta Lamb Traceability Pilot Project (LTPP) is yielding valuable management and productivity information for producers with flocks of all sizes.

LTPP producer participants found the Shearwell tag saved time and effort by being easy to apply, having a low infection rate and a retention rate of over 99%; it's also the most cost effective RFID tag.

Commercial and seed stock producers can use complete RFID systems to realize profit-boosting management and operational efficiencies. An RFID system is made up of various components; RFID tags, electronic tag readers, and management software. Optional components include electronic scales and handling systems.

When government mandated traceability is implemented, Alberta producers will be ready and can be proud that they are leading the way in the industry in using this innovative new technology.

Traceability is a farm gate-to-plate tracking system that strengthens industry confidence in the quality of our product and supports more efficient operations at every stage of the value chain.

Please visit the Canadian Sheep Federation website to see eight short, step-by-step, instructional videos on tagging your animals.

Canadian Sheep Federation website: www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/tagvideos.aspx

Your partners in Building Better Lambs:



CSIP RFID tags

The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) is a mandatory identification program for sheep in Canada, implemented January 1, 2004. All sheep and lambs must bear a CSIP ear tag before they leave the farm of birth or other location; even temporarily such as shows, veterinarian, community pasture.

There are two Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tags currently approved for use on the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP).

Allflex Button Tags

- Are sold as a two-part set – ensure front and back numbers match



Shearwell Loop Tags

- Put the tag on the top of the ear.
- Leave room for the ear to grow when tagging baby lambs.



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For best tag retention and readability

- Follow the manufacturer's directions
- Use the right RFID tag applicator (tagger)
- Apply the tags in right position (close to the head)
- Apply the tags between the cartilage (ribs) of the animal's right ear
- The tag transponder should be on the inner side of the ear
- Animals must have only one RFID tag



Image © AARD

CSIP Pink metal Kurl-lock tags are no longer available for purchase. Existing stocks may be used up until the Canadian Food Inspection Agency revokes this tag. Once the tag is revoked it can no longer be used as a CSIP tag.

Don't leave home without one –

- All sheep and lambs must bear a CSIP tag before leaving the farm of origin or any subsequent premises.
- It is illegal to transport or accept sheep and lambs without CSIP tags.
- When buying sheep or lambs privately, make sure they have a CSIP tag.
- CSIP is a national program, retagging is only necessary when an animal loses its tag.
- Keep a record of:
 - All sheep or lambs entering your premises for breeding, feeding or even temporary holding.
 - All sheep 18 months or older leaving your farm, other than those sold directly to a federally or provincially inspected abattoir. Retain records of all animals shipped to slaughter.
- Imported sheep and lambs must have a CSIP applied within 7 days of arrival.
- All sheep and lambs entering Quebec must bear a CSIP approved paired tag.
- Full information on CSIP is available from the Canadian Sheep Federation website www.cansheep.ca
- In Alberta, Premises Identification is mandatory – it is a unique identifying number assigned to a specific piece of property. To apply for your PID visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises or call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276)
- All sheep are required to be accompanied by an Alberta livestock manifest when transported. Manifests are available at auction markets or from Livestock Identification Services Ltd. at 1-866-509-2088 www.lis-alberta.com.

To order your CSIP tags please call: Canadian Cooperative Woolgrowers at 1-800-567-3693

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