

# Traceability in Alberta



September 2015

## Traceability and the Swine 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 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 swine, is the ability to identify individual or groups of animals. Animal identification works with the other pillars of traceability, premises identification and animal movement, to track where animals have been transported and when.

The majority of swine movements require an approved swine identifier to be applied to the swine. In most cases, the approved swine identifier will be a registered herd mark number that is assigned by Alberta Pork to the premises from which the swine are being shipped. For movements to slaughter, the herd mark is typically applied as a tattoo. Other movements may require an ear tag which would bear the herd mark number. Alberta herd marks are made up of five digits and end in the number six. These numbers are provided upon registration with Alberta Pork and are printed on the Producer Card.

There are instances where an approved swine identifier is not required. For example, the movement of weaners/growers from farm to farm does not require the application of a swine identifier; however, the group of swine are identified (number, type, etc.) on the swine manifest that travels with the swine.

**For more information on swine identification, contact:**

Alberta Pork  
4828 89 Street Edmonton, AB T6E 5K1  
1-877-247-7675  
[www.albertapork.com](http://www.albertapork.com)



## 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.

As of July 2014, a swine manifest is required for any movement of swine in Alberta. The shipper, the transporter and the receiver are obligated to complete their section on the manifest and retain a copy for their records. For movements received within Alberta, the receiver is responsible for submitting the completed manifest to the swine movement database (Alberta Pork) within 48 hours of receipt of the swine. For shipments that end outside of Alberta, the shipper is responsible for submitting the manifest to the swine movement database within 48 hours of shipment.

Regulated persons within Alberta are required to comply with both federal and provincial legislation. As Alberta's Swine Traceability Regulation should achieve the same results as the national regulation, the Canadian Pork Council advises regulated persons in Alberta to comply with Alberta's regulation.

**For more information on swine movement requirements, contact:**

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# Traceability Protects!

Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future