

# Traceability in Alberta



September 2015

## Traceability and the Sheep 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, for transactions

involving livestock at an auction market and when purchasing sheep tags. 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 sheep, 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.

Sheep and lamb must bear an approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag before they leave their farm of origin. Visual CSIP tags are being accepted at markets as the industry transitions to mandatory RFID tags. When purchasing tags from Canadian Co-operative Woolgrowers Ltd., Alberta sheep producers are asked for their PID Number.

**To order CSIP tags, contact the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd.:**

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd.  
918 – 1 Avenue South  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0A9  
1-800-567-3693  
[www.wool.ca](http://www.wool.ca)



## 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.

All sheep must be identified by an approved CSIP tag applied to the animal before it is moved from its farm of origin. Subject to a few exceptions, an Alberta Livestock Manifest is required to transport or drive sheep within Alberta and to inspection sites such as livestock markets, livestock assembly stations, feedlots and abattoirs.

An Alberta Livestock Manifest is always required if sheep are being transported out of the province.

**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)



# Traceability Protects!

Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future