

Alberta's

> Livestock and Poultry Traceability

Traceability Protects!

Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future



Alberta



Alberta is proud to provide safe, consistent, high-quality agriculture and food products for consumers around the world. The province of Alberta contributes to Canada's exports of agriculture and agri-food products through a variety of primary and processed livestock products including beef, pork and bison, among other livestock items.



Committed to safe, quality meat products, Alberta is part of Canada's national traceability system and works closely with industry organizations representing a diverse number of livestock species and poultry. Traceability allows us to follow the movement of livestock from one point in an animal's production cycle to another.

This makes the agriculture industry stronger while delivering animal health and food safety benefits to both our domestic and international markets. Traceability systems in Canada are based on three pillars -- premises identification, animal identification and animal movement.

We know that the ability to trace an animal throughout its life cycle is essential to isolating animal health emergencies, supporting producers in an emergency and can help limit the market, environmental and social impacts of such emergencies.

Working Internationally

In 2006, Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) governments prioritized the implementation of a mandatory livestock traceability system. They determined that the national livestock traceability system would provide timely, accurate and relevant information to better manage disease outbreaks, food safety issues and natural disasters. This national traceability program also supports market access, competitiveness and consumer confidence.

Current livestock that are fully regulated include:

- Beef cattle
- Dairy cattle
- Bison
- Sheep
- Pigs, including farmed wild boar
- Goat
- Deer, elk



Ensuring Safety and Quality from Farm to Consumer

Traceability is a system that can follow the movement of agriculture and agri-food products from farm to fork.



Canada works closely with international organizations in developing and adopting best practices in agriculture, including animal health, traceability and food safety. Consumers in many international markets view traceability as important in providing assurance of product safety. The adoption of best practices for agriculture and agri-food products reflects Canada's participation in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. These organizations, like the governments of Alberta and Canada, acknowledge the importance and value of traceability for its contributions to market access and food safety as well as the protection of both public and animal health.



Livestock Traceability in Alberta

The Pillars of Traceability

The use of the three livestock related traceability components – premises identification, animal identification and animal movement - improves response times and containment of potentially at-risk animals.

Premises Identification

Premises Identification (PID) links livestock and poultry to specific land locations and types of agricultural operations. The information collected through the provincial Premises Identification System allows industry and government to efficiently locate animals and notify owners of an emergency that may affect their livestock or poultry.

If you own a livestock animal or poultry, and that animal is kept at a premises other than a commingling site (e.g. stable), 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 (e.g. stable) and that animal will never be kept at a premises under your care and control (e.g. farm or acreage), you are not required to register for a PID account. However, you will need to obtain the PID number from the operator of the site where your animal is kept.



You must apply for a PID account within 30 days of assuming ownership of an animal. Although you may view your livestock as a pet or companion animal, it is important to obtain a PID account because your animal can still receive and transmit diseases. Even if you own only one animal, it is still necessary to obtain a PID account.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. 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).

Although Premises Identification is part of Canada's National Livestock Traceability System, implementing a Premises Identification system is the responsibility of each province or territory. PID has been mandatory since January 1, 2009 under Alberta's *Animal Health Act*.

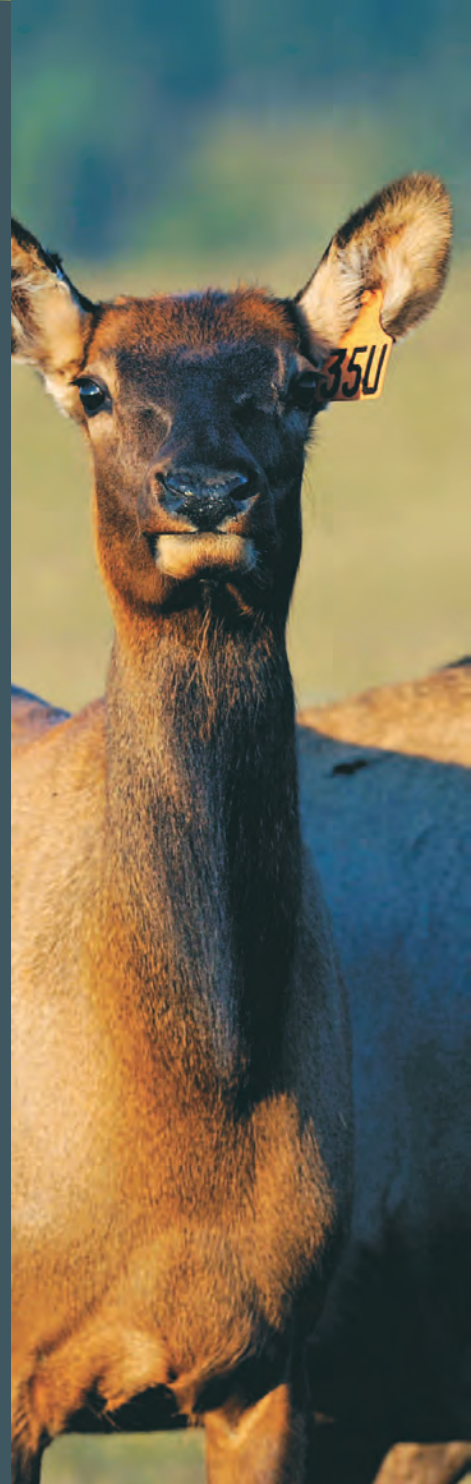
Plastic PID wallet cards will automatically be issued to new and updated PID account holders.



Places that require a Premises Identification (PID) account

Farms, ranches, acreages and commingling sites that have livestock animals as defined in the *Alberta Animal Health Act*. As well as, commingling sites where animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently. Commingling Sites include:

- an abattoir under the *Meat Inspection Act (Alberta)*
- an abattoir under the *Meat Inspection Act (Canada)*
- animal artificial insemination centres
- animal embryo transfer stations
- assembling stations
- carcass disposal sites
- boarding stables
- community pastures
- fairs and exhibitions
- feedlots
- livestock markets
- an establishment operating under the *Meat Inspection Act (Canada)*
- meat facilities under the *Meat Inspection Act (Alberta)*
- race tracks
- renderers
- research facilities
- veterinary clinics
- veterinary laboratories
- veterinary hospitals, and
- zoos





Animals covered by PID

You may think of your animal or bird as a pet, but it may also be considered livestock and you will need to register your premises.

With the addition of backyard flocks in typically urban areas and acreages with a number of hobby animals and birds, it is important to know if your hobby or pet is also considered livestock.

Under the *Animal Health Act*, Animals refers to the following animals in captivity:

- alpacas
- beef cattle
- bees
- bison
- cervids (such as elk and deer)
- dairy cattle
- donkeys
- doves
- ducks
- fish acquired, propagated, reared or kept in accordance with a class A commercial fish culture license
- or a class B commercial fish culture license
- issued under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*
- fur-bearing animals as defined in the *Fur Farms Act*
- geese
- goats
- guinea fowl
- horses
- llamas
- mules
- peafowl
- pheasants
- pigeons
- poultry
- quail
- rabbits raised for the production of meat
- ratites (flightless birds such as ostrich and emu)
- sheep
- swine
- wild boars
- yaks

In the event of an animal health or food safety issue, the quick identification of potentially at-risk animals or food products is vital to our reputation in domestic and international markets.

The PID system is also used as an early warning system to notify animal owners of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect animals or operations. By completing a PID application and keeping your information up-to-date, producers take an important step in protecting their animals and those of other Alberta and Canadian producers.

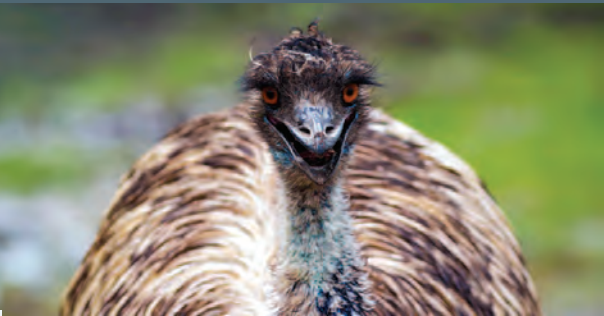
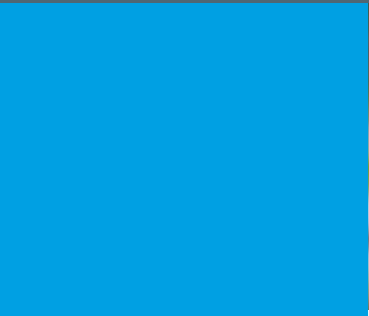
Animal owners will need to have a PID number to:

- Buy medication for your animals at retail outlets (this requirement took effect on July 1, 2014 as part of amendments to the *Animal Health Act*.)
- Complete movement documents such as manifests and permits, if required, when transporting your animals.
- Sell livestock.
- Apply for some government sponsored agriculture grants, licenses and programs.

Animal Identification

Animals are identified either individually or as a group, depending on the species.

The development and implementation of our animal identification system has been achieved through industry and government working together. Canada's system currently includes mandatory animal identification requirements for cattle (beef and dairy), bison, swine, cervids, sheep and goats.



The implementation of animal identification programs are at different stages of development depending on the species. Industry and government are working together to design and implement traceability systems for all livestock. Indicators

(tags, bracelets, etc.) will depend on the needs of the animal sector and the results of some pilot testing that has occurred for various animals. Animal identification is set out nationally.

Check with your industry association to determine identification requirements or on the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry website under 'Traceability' where you will find a list of Livestock Requirements.

Animal Movement

Tracking the movement of animals through the production cycle is an important part of our traceability system. The goal is to trace livestock and poultry backwards or forwards through the production supply chain based on official records. Movement records are important to that process because the faster that livestock can be located, the more quickly and accurately livestock at risk of being affected by or exposed to potential diseases or natural threats can be identified and located.

Livestock traceability systems provide the ability to trace and locate an animal throughout the production cycle.

The Alberta Traceability System, based on the three pillars – premises identification, animal identification and animal movement – can also be used to validate established

“zones” around at-risk areas. Zoning is an internationally recognized practice, when effective traceability systems are in place, it ensures at-risk areas are being taken care of while not-at-risk areas continue normal business and trading operations.

Animal Movement documentation requirements are set out by both the federal and provincial governments.

For more information on animal movement requirements check with your industry association or on the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry website under 'Traceability' in the Livestock Requirements section.

Through on-going participation in the national traceability livestock system, Alberta continues to provide high quality agriculture and agri-food products that can be effectively and rapidly tracked as well as being safely enjoyed by Canadian consumers and consumers around the world.

Alberta's producers are proud of the legacy of quality they have produced for generations.

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On Traceability in Alberta:
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability

For more information on Alberta's agriculture and food sector: www.agric.gov.ab.ca