

Sun Sets on Bar-coded Tag Status

Commencing January 1, 2010, as required by Health of Animals Regulations, all animals (dairy and beef) in all provinces must be identified with approved **RFID** tags. This reminder is of particular significance for animals moving off-farm and/or co-mingling—mixing animals of different origins.

In the case of NLID, distribution of bar-coded tags was discontinued January 2008. However, some dairy animals may still sport bar-coded tags as they have never moved off-farm. If this is the case, then all affixed tags must remain in the ears plus the addition of a RFID tag.

The RFID tag may be ordered from NLID with the same lifetime and management number [as bar-coded tag]



Barcoded tags are still recognized as security dairy tags, but do not have national recognition off-farm.



Two upgrade options exist.

for \$3.95. If a panel is desired, the radio XL panel is available for \$5.25 (radio button fused into panel).

An animal requires a RFID tag to move off-farm even if previously identified with a bar-coded tag.

In the event a CCIA yellow RFID tag (generic, respecting dairy) is used, then this number must be cross-referenced with the animal's original lifetime number (NLID/ATQ) in herd records and, ultimately reported to the emerging traceability network.

Pillars of Traceability

RFID technology must be implemented across the entire country's bovine sector to enable Canada to move forward on traceability.

There are three pillars of traceability.

Animal identification, with 80-85% adaptation, is now nationally co-ordinated by DFC on behalf of all dairy producers and industry stakeholders.

Secondly, unique **premise identification, location, and attributes** are necessary to support animal movement. Provinces have been assigned the responsibility to lead this key, massive project.

Animal movement, the third pillar, can be achieved by full, national co-ordination and adaptation of **RFID** tags and technology. This encompasses auction marts, exhibitions, co-mingling sites, community pastures, and abattoirs.

- NLID=National Livestock IDentification
- RFID=Radio Frequency ID
- ATQ=Agri-Traçabilité Québec inc.
- CCIA=Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
- DFC=Dairy Farmers of Canada

It's a No-no to Reassign Tags

Producers are prohibited from reassigning national tags and numbers from one animal to another animal for *any* reason. Once they are assigned and birth particulars are submitted for registration and/or traceability, the corresponding tags must not be re-designated even in the event of calf mortality.

Birth details must not be submitted for registration or traceability (age verification/tag activation) unless official,

national tags have been previously applied—one matching pair in each ear.

System credibility and traceability efforts rely on the accurate recording of *all* events on-farm, e.g. births, herd additions, sales, disposals.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to up its enforcement efforts for non-compliance.