

# Premises ID

## Tagging the dirt

**H**olstein Canada's Board of Directors supports Dairy Farmers of Canada's vision to implement a comprehensive, mandatory, world-class animal traceability system.

Provincial registries (e.g. Ontario's OnTrace, Québec's ATQ, and Alberta's AF) have been charged with the responsibility to assign unique, premises-ID numbers to all land parcels (*the dirt*) across the country.

To advance traceability, a pilot project is underway with Ontario's OnTrace to verify and complete data sets for all Holstein Canada members and clients.

NLID's role currently involves tag ordering, distribution, birthdate/age verification, tag replacement, tag customization, and reporting to

**Much of the required traceability data already exists in electronic format within dairy's extensive network. However, it is not readily accessible for traceability purposes.**

national and provincial databases.

Now, for example, when any national tags are ordered, the client (customer) is assigned an internal, reference ID number. Because this number is not national in scope or common to other databases, it must be cross-referenced.

Long overdue, official premises IDs, assigned by provincial registries, would be unique both provincially and nationally and, replace internal, non-descript IDs.

This would allow tags, for example, to be allotted more accurately to a farm premises rather than an

individual. Moreover, the premises ID could be used for emergency management.

To accomplish this project, information must be shared and compared between agencies, while respecting the proprietary rights of producers.

## What is premises identification?

It is a parcel of land defined by a legal land description or by

*Example of Consistent, Reliable Provincial Premises ID Number*

ON1234567  
(2 alphas)(7 numerics)

geo-referenced co-ordinates, on which animals, plants, or food are grown, kept, assembled, or disposed of.

Premises identification consists of the characterization and the allocation of a unique identifier to a premise whose geographical location has been appropriately provided.

## Why do we need premises identification?

Premises identification is one of the *three*, key, building blocks for a traceability system. The other *two* components are *animal and animal product identification*, and *movement tracking*.

For both livestock and crops, premises identification is a critical element of an effective emergency response resulting from a natural disaster, a food safety concern, or animal/plant disease outbreak.

Tagging of land parcels is a necessary prerequisite to animal/plant product movement tracking.

# Transfer Those Newbies

Frequently, owners must be contacted for transfer information on a dam when her calf is submitted for registration.

Without current, complete ownership records, registration of resulting calves is delayed or even incorrectly aligned to an owner. A calf must be registered in the same name as the recorded owner of the dam at time of calving.

It is recommended that purchased females be transferred as soon as they enter the herd—at the very latest, when joining the milking line.

Whether the information is filed by phone, e-mail, hard copy, or electronically, the pertinent pieces of data include the animal's registration number, name and/or birth date (two key pieces for verification purposes), and date of sale or date the animal entered the herd.