

Canada A World Leader in Animal Identification

Fully implemented on July 1, 2002 the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency - CCIA has been successfully established as a world leader in animal identification. By creating National Standards on individual animal identification, tags, tag distribution, and data reporting, the CCIA has implemented a sustainable identification system that is fully supported by the Canadian cattle industry. Since 2002, more than 35 million unique numbers have been allocated, making the Canadian Cattle Identification Program one of the most comprehensive national animal identification systems in the world. www.canadaid.ca

Currently under development are a variety of program enhancements including:

- Premise Identification
- Lot Identification
- Full Animal Movement Tracking
- Enhanced Record Keeping (Age Verification/Carcass Information etc.)

AGE VERIFICATION:

The need for the association of birth date information with an animal tag or Lot Identification in a single database has been identified by the Canadian cattle industry. In order to collect birth date information, the Information System must be able to validate the source of the information through a secured individual producer login and demonstrate that the data has not been subsequently modified. The many benefits to submitting birth date information within the national database provide a potential for an increase in shares of domestic and international markets.

How Does It Work?

- A CCIA approved tag is applied to the ear prior to leaving the herd of origin.
- All tags are visually and electronically imbedded with a unique identification number that is allocated from the national database and then distributed to producers through authorized tag dealers.
- The national tag distribution network securely reports all tag issuance records directly to the national database.
- The unique number of each individual animal is maintained to the point of export or carcass inspection where the animal is either approved for human consumption or condemned.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provides full regulatory enforcement for animal identification as defined in the Health of Animals Regulations. All herd of origin information associated with each tag number is maintained within the national database and is only accessed by authorized CFIA personnel in the event of an animal health issue.

In 2003, the Canadian Cattle industry committed to the transition to RFID technology. The benefits of RFID include; exceptional tag retention and readability, increased data integrity, ability to read at a distance without line of sight, and future capabilities of full animal movement tracking.

How RFID works:

A transponder consists of an encoded chip and antenna. A reader transfers electromagnetic waves, charging the transponder. The transponder then transmits data to the reader and the reader receives the response from the transponder. RFID tags are designed to function without battery power. They have the capacity to perform for the lifetime of the animal.

