



how *traceability* works for you

www.raisedwithcare.ca

For more information, talk to your veterinarian or visit www.raisedwithcare.ca



what is *traceability*?

Alberta's traceability program is a system of tracking livestock animals and their movement to allow for a swift and accurate response to any public health threat that may

arise from infected or diseased livestock in the chain of food production. Traceability is one part of an effective animal health and food safety system that enables precise and rapid emergency response to protect livestock, producers and consumers. When we all work together—veterinary

professionals, the Government of Alberta, and livestock producers—our combined effort can control outbreaks, respond to emergencies and disasters, and minimize health and safety threats to animals, producers, and consumers.

The systems that

allow us to trace the movement of livestock and poultry through the production supply chain are invaluable to protecting our industry and ensuring the quality of our products. The three fundamental pillars of traceability in Alberta are **Premises Identification, Animal Identification, and Animal Movement.**

PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

For the purpose of traceability, a premises is any location where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, brought together, or disposed of. Premises Identification (PID) is the linking of livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. A PID Account can contain several PID Numbers for different locations where animals reside. A PID Number is a nine character identifier of numbers and letters associated with a specific location. All Alberta PID Numbers start with "A".



ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

Animal Identification is the ability to identify individual animals or groups of animals, depending on the species of livestock. When combined with premises identification and animal movement tracking, animal identification allows the location of animals quickly and accurately when a disease outbreak needs to be contained.

ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Animal Movement is the act of tracking livestock and poultry through the production supply chain based on animal movement records. This is vital to traceability because knowing where livestock has been in a timely manner will more effectively protect animal and human health. Regulations regarding animal movement varies between species of livestock.

WHY IT MATTERS

During an emergency response, which could include disease outbreaks, floods or fires, access to up-to date information is critical. Determining where animals are, where they have been and what other animals they have come into contact with allows for efficient emergency planning and response. Traceability is an investment that lowers the risks involved in livestock production and protects livestock producers and their operations by reducing the size and impact of disease outbreaks and other health and safety risks.

How is the premises identification information being used?

The PID System has a variety of uses including planning for, controlling and preventing the

spread of an animal disease. It is also used to notify animal owners of an impending emergency, such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals. **This information is not used for regulatory or tax purposes.**

Will my information be kept confidential?

Your information is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act) and the *Animal Health Act* (AHA). It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, but only in accordance with the AHA, for the purposes set out in the AHA including to plan for or respond to an animal health emergency or to validate premises information held in the system.

Do I need a PID Number to receive medication for my animals?

No. Registration is not necessary to receive treatment or medication from veterinarians and veterinary practices, but participation in the traceability program is strongly encouraged by the veterinary community. Animal health and welfare is our top priority.

Do I need a PID Number to purchase medicated feed?

No. Medicated feeds are covered under federal regulations, so a provincially issued PID Number is not required. *The Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation* (AMSR) does not apply to: "(a) the sale of medicated feeds prepared either in accordance with the *Feeds Act* (Canada) or pursuant to a prescription issued by a registered veterinarian".

Why do Authorized Medicine Sales outlets ask for PID Numbers when medicines are purchased and veterinary practices don't?

Authorized Medicine Sales (AMS) Outlets are regulated under the authority of the *Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation* which requires that AMS Outlets collect the PID Number from producers who purchase pharmaceuticals. The Authorized Medicine Sales Regulations do not apply to veterinary practices. The AMSR does not apply to the sale of medicine by: (i) any person authorized by the *Veterinary Profession Act* to sell medicine, when acting under authority of that act, or (ii) any person authorized by the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* to sell medicine, when acting under authority of that Act.

real examples of the *system in use*

In early 2011, after a long, wet and late spring, incredible volumes of water placed unbelievable pressure on the sturdy walls of the Oldman Dam in Southern Alberta. To avoid a catastrophic spill-over, it was determined that a controlled breach would be required.

By utilizing the PID system, emergency response officials were able to determine which livestock operations would be potentially impacted and direct contact was made with affected producers so that they could make arrangements to safeguard their livestock.

In early 2009, H1N1 Influenza was discovered on a hog operation in Central Alberta. The PID System was used to quickly identify all hog and/or poultry operations within a 20 km radius. The office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) was able to rapidly dispatch an emergency task force to ensure that the disease hadn't spread to other operations. All hog and poultry operations in the area were able to continue to ship to market and resume regular operations.

definitions

What is a premises?

A premises is a land location where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of.

What is a PID Account?

A PID Account is a summary of the information related to an animal owner or commingling site operator, including contact information and the location of the animals. A PID Account relates to the applicant and can contain several PID Numbers for different locations where animals are located.

What is a PID Number?

A PID Number is a nine character unique identifier (consisting of a combination of numbers and letters) that is associated with a specific land location. Alberta PID Numbers start with the letter 'A'.

What is a Commingling Site?

A commingling site is a location, other than a farm or a ranch, where animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently. (Examples: boarding stable, community pasture, feedlot, veterinary practice that receives livestock, etc.)

What is Maximum Capacity?

Maximum capacity is not the actual number of animals on the premises. Rather, it is an estimate of the highest number of animals (of the selected species) that the operation(s)

on the premises could reasonably accommodate. This information, used in conjunction with the type of species on the premises, allows emergency responders to prepare and respond appropriately.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why is Premises Identification Important?

Premises Identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management plan. In an animal health event, having animal locations and other key information in one system is critical for quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response for the safety of animals and people.

HAVING A PID ACCOUNT

Do I need to apply for a PID Account?

Under Alberta's *Premises Identification Regulation*, 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 register at least one PID Number associated to where the animal(s) are located. 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/or transmit disease. Even if you only own 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).

When do I need to apply for a PID Account?

Every animal owner (except one whose animals are ONLY kept on someone else's commingling site) and every operator of a commingling site must register with the PID system within 30 days of assuming ownership of an animal, or operation of a commingling site.

What species of animals are included under premises identification?

Any animal in captivity designated in the regulation, including livestock and/or

poultry, needs to be recorded under your premises. For a complete listing of the species please see Schedule A, Part 7 of the PID Application or the Alberta Premises Identification Regulation.

Do I need a PID Account if I only have one animal?

Yes, you need a PID Account because even one animal can receive and transmit infectious diseases that can affect your herd/flock, neighbouring animals and sometimes the entire industry. Having an up-to-date PID Account ensures that you will be contacted in the case of an animal emergency situation.

Which premises do I need to register?

Operators of commingling sites

are required to register all their commingling sites and obtain a PID Number for each premises. Animal owners that take care of their own animals are required to have at least one premises registered, preferably the main animal operation. It is beneficial for animal owners to register additional premises in the PID System, particularly those away from the main operation, to ensure they are still notified if an emergency happens in that area. Additional premises can be registered through the online or paper application process.

Do I need to maintain my PID Account information?

Yes. PID Account holders must record any change to the information in their PID Account within 30 days of the change.

application & account

What information do applicants need to provide?

An applicant must provide:

- Applicant name and contact information (telephone number, address, email if available)
- Emergency 24/7 contact information for the premises
- Location of the premises (e.g. legal land description or geo-referenced coordinates)
- Type of operation (e.g. farm, abattoir, etc.)
- Species of animals raised, kept, displayed, assembled, and disposed of on the premises
- Maximum capacity of the premises for each species of animal

How can I apply for a PID Account?

There are two ways to apply:

Online Application

- You can register your own account and maintain your account information online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises
 - > Click the "Apply or Sign-In Online!" button to apply.

Paper/Hardcopy Application

- A paper application form can be obtained from:
 - > Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) Field Offices throughout Alberta
 - > Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Mobile Field Representatives
 - > Authorized Medicine Retailers
- You can call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM to request that a form be mailed or faxed to you. You can also print it from AF's Ropin' the Web at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

How do I update my account?

It is the responsibility of producers to keep their information up-to-date. Update your information within 30 days of any change. You can update your information in one of two ways:

Online Application

- You can update your account yourself online at: www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises
 - > Click the "Apply or Sign-In Online" button to log-in and access your account.

Paper/Hardcopy Application

The paper application form detailed above can be used to update existing accounts by selecting "Update an existing PID Account" under the Purpose of Application.

USING A PID NUMBER

When will I need to use a PID Number?

PID Numbers are required on Alberta Livestock Manifests in accordance with the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act (LICA)*. PID Numbers are also required when buying medications at a Authorized Medicine sales outlet or when selling animals at an auction market. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements.

ADDITIONAL HELP

What should I do if I forgot my PID Number?

If you forgot your PID Number, please contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) for assistance.

What happens if I have forgotten my password to access my online PID Account?

Contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) for assistance.

What should I do if my information changes?

Information associated to a PID Account needs to be updated within 30 days of any change. This includes changes to contact information, animal types, maximum capacity, etc. It is vital that information is updated as it changes so you can receive the best service and support from emergency responders.

INFORMATION ACCESS AND USE

How is the premises identification information being used?

The PID System has a variety of uses including planning for, controlling and preventing the spread of an animal disease. It is also used to notify animal owners of an impending emergency, such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals.

Where can I obtain more copies of the PID Account Form, Schedule A or Schedule B?

The paper application and schedules are available online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises. You can also visit your local AF Field Office or CCIA Mobile Field Representative at auction markets for copies.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on the PID Program including regulations, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276), a local AF Field Office, or visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises.

