



## overview of *traceability*

### **What is Traceability in Alberta?**

Alberta's traceability program is a system of tracking livestock animals and their movement. The success of this program relies on the willing participation of Alberta's livestock industry. Veterinary practices are an important advocate in the program.

### **Why is livestock traceability important?**

Traceability allows for a swift and accurate response to any public health threats or animal health events that may arise from infected or diseased livestock in the chain of food production.

### **PILLARS OF TRACEABILITY**

Traceability in Alberta relies on three fundamental pillars of premises identification, animal identification and animal movement.

**Premises Identification** — the linking of livestock and poultry to land locations or premises.

**Animal Identification** — the ability to identify individual animals or groups of animals, depending on the species of livestock.

**Animal Movement** — the act of tracing livestock and poultry backwards or forwards through the production supply chain.

### **COMMON QUESTIONS**

#### **Why is premises identification important?**

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.

#### **Do I need a PID Number to receive medication from a veterinarian?**

No, but participation in the traceability program is strongly encouraged by the veterinary community. Animal health and welfare is our top priority.

#### **Who needs to apply for a PID Account?**

You need a PID Account if:

- You own livestock or poultry that is kept at a premises other than a commingling site
- You operate one or more commingling sites

#### **When do I need to apply for a PID Account?**

You must apply for a PID Account within 30 days of assuming ownership of an animal, or operation of a commingling site.

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

Yes. All livestock animals and poultry, which includes bees, commercial fish, rabbits raised for meat, and wild boars need to be identified in the PID system.

#### **Which premises do I need to register?**

Operators of commingling sites:

- all commingling sites

Animal owners who take care of their own animals:

- at least one premises registered, preferably the main animal operation.

### ***What species of animals are included under premises identification?***

Any animal in captivity designated in the regulation, including livestock and 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*.

### ***When will I need to use PID Numbers?***

When transporting your animals, when buying medications at an Authorized Medicine Sales Outlet, when selling animals at an auction market, or when applying for certain agriculture programs.

### ***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.

### ***How do I apply for a PID Account?***

You can apply online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises). The paper application can also be found on this site, at Agriculture and Forestry Field Offices or through CCIA Mobile Field Representative at auction markets.

### ***If I always keep my animals (e.g. horses) at a commingling site (e.g. stable), will I need a PID Number?***

Only to purchase authorized medicines or to transport your animals. You must obtain the PID Number from the operator of the site where you keep your animal(s).

### ***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 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”.

## **YOUR PRIVACY**

### ***How is the premises identification information being used?***

The PID System is designed to plan for, control, and prevent the spread of an animal disease. It also notifies 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* and the *Animal Health Act*. It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, 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.

### ***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](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).