



CCIA NEWS

FALL 2006

RFID Tagging Date Arrives

"By tagging all cattle leaving their herd of origin as of September 1, 2006 with a CCIA approved RFID tag, all industry segments can be confident that they are contributing to the safety and sustainability of the national cattle herd."

As per CCIA policy, as of September 1, 2006 all cattle leaving their Herd of Origin must be tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag. In order to facilitate the transition to RFID, full enforcement will commence December 31, 2007.

For example, although it is strongly recommended that all cattle are tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag as of September 1, 2006, if you do have bar-coded tags left, and you have cattle that will be through the system and to slaughter by the end of 2007, bar-coded tag use may be acceptable. However, the CCIA Board of Directors would like all producers to be aware that as the demand for RFID increases within the industry, it is in everyone's best interest to begin tagging with RFID as soon as possible.

How to Achieve Optimal RFID Tag Retention

RFID tags are required to pass trial with a 99% retention rate in lab and in field. There are three things that producers can do to ensure optimal tag retention:

- 1) Ensure proper tag applicator is being used for specific tag brand
- 2) Ensure proper backing studs are being used (tags are approved as a tag set)
- 3) Ensure proper tagging location is utilized (see diagram)



Industry Supports Building Effective Zoning Capacity: West Hawk Lake Update

The livestock industry continues to lead an initiative for implementing zoning capability at West Hawk Lake (MB / ON border). The mission is to give Canada a near-term, 2-zone capability in the event of a major outbreak of a highly contagious disease, such as Foot & Mouth Disease. Zoning is internationally recognized as an effective practice for animal disease control and accelerating market re-entry. It has been successfully used in Canada and is recognized by the US (TB Manitoba). Canada's trading partners also use zoning.

The first phase of the West Hawk Lake (WHL) Zoning Project, which is managed by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition, is complete thus laying the foundation for implementation.

The second phase of the WHL Zoning Initiative will focus on ensuring that the tools are built for the implementation of the pilot. One of the essential tools is that of the WHL zoning data capture system. CCIA's Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), recognized as the national database for livestock identification, provides the ideal platform to meet the zoning data requirements

(premises, consignments, direction of movements).

The Final Phase (January 2007 to June 2007) will see the development of the business case for funding and appropriate formulas; demonstrate the value of the WHL Zoning Control Site; ensure governance & operating agreements are in place; and begin populating the zoning module – full operation of the PILOT.

For more on WHL Zoning Initiative: contact ann@animalhealth.ca; (780) 430-7767

Age Verify Ahead Of Time To Ensure Success

With almost 2.5 million animals Age Verified since 2004 and the number steadily increasing, the CCIA is predicting a further increase with the upcoming fall calf run. The CCIA is also reminding producers not to leave Age Verification to the last minute. "If producers don't Age Verify until the animals are about to be sold, they are not leaving themselves any time to correct possible errors", said Nadine Meade, Project Manager of Database Enhancements.

In order to ensure that your birth date information has been processed successfully, producers should remember to keep track of their Transaction ID numbers which can be used (through the Search/Request History functionality) to confirm there are no problems. Meade adds that, "The Age Verification System has been designed with checks and balances in place to ensure utmost data integrity. Occasionally this can result in a birth date not going through." Once birth date submission is complete, producers can choose to generate specific birth certificates as needed. Producers who do not have internet access can assign a third party user to submit on their behalf.

This voluntary, free of charge program allows producers to submit information and have it readily available as required by domestic or export markets by visiting www.canadaid.ca and clicking on the Age Verification link.

The CCIA Helpdesk is available for producers who have questions about the Age Verification Process. For more information, please call toll free 1-877-909-2333. (8am-4pm MST) or visit www.canadaid.ca/info to obtain instructions and templates.

Age Verification Frequently Asked Questions

Is Age Verification Mandatory?

Currently, Age Verification is voluntary, but the Government of Alberta has announced the move toward mandatory Age Verification by April 2007. No other Provinces have officially announced a move toward mandatory Age Verification, although many are strongly encouraging that producers Age Verify their cattle.

How long do I have before I have to Age Verify?

There is no timeline in which animals need to be Age verified by and animals born after January 1, 1990 can be Age Verified. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency does require that the animal being Age Verified has a CCIA Approved tag in their ear.

Can I Age Verify Bar Coded and RFID tags?

Yes. Bar Coded and RFID CCIA Approved tags can be Age Verified.

Do I have to know exact birth dates?

No. You can enter exact birth dates with corresponding tag numbers, or a Calving Start Date associated with a tag range.

How do I prove if my animals are Age Verified?

After Age Verifying your animals, you can print off a Birth Certificate identifying that animals have been Age Verified.

How do I get a Birth Certificate?

Birth certificates can be printed off from the site after successfully reporting your Birth Dates.

TAGGING REMINDER: Rodeos, Shows, Fairs and Exhibitions

Last year, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced a regulatory amendment that requires all cattle to be tagged prior to leaving their farm of origin including those going to; fairs, rodeos, exhibition sites, test stations or veterinarian clinics (unless going to an approved tagging site).

The CFIA bulletin announced that, "Producers will now be required to ensure all animals are tagged before they are moved to community pastures, fairs, or veterinarian clinics. The national identification program is a critical component of the suite of measures that Canada has in place to protect human and animal health. This program assists the CFIA in monitoring the national herd and investigating diseases such as the trace-out investigations of the North American cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) diagnosed since 2003."



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