



CCIA NEWS

SPRING 2006

CCIA: Industry Initiated, Industry Led

The Canadian cattle industry continues its recovery from BSE and welcomes the announcements of new border openings and expanded market access. With the recent announcement of another BSE case in Canada, CCIA was again able to provide a vital component in the investigation, providing CFIA, in a timely manner, with numerous tag history, herd inventory and retirement reports.

The National Identification and Tracking system continues to expand and with the anticipation of additional border openings and the increasing demand for traceability for all livestock species the demand for services will continue to increase. The CCIA maintains its role as a world leader in animal identification and efficient animal disease and

food safety trace back and continues to focus on the successful implementation of the post BSE enhancements as identified through consultation with our international trading partners, government and industry. As the need for identification, tracking, and traceability increases globally, we remain committed to working with our livestock industry partners to ensure these programs are practical and meet the demands of our customers in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

- Julie Stitt, CCIA Executive Director



CCIA STAFF TALK TO PRODUCERS ACROSS CANADA

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and the Canadian Cattle Industry

When will cattle require RFID tags?

As per CCIA policy, as of September 1, 2006 all cattle leaving their Herd of Origin are to be tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag. In order to facilitate the transition to RFID, full enforcement will commence December 31, 2007, at which time the bar-coded tags will be permanently removed from the list of CCIA approved tags.

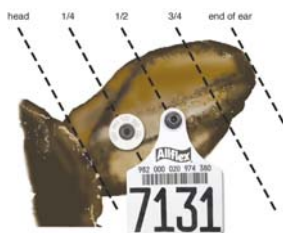
Why the two dates?

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.

What kind of retention do RFID tags have?

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 below)



Why is there no Dangle Type RFID available?

Many producers have indicated that they would like to see a dangle RFID tag available allowing them to indicate their own herd management numbers on the tags. Although one such tag had been previously approved, it has yet to be manufactured. All CCIA tags are placed through extensive trials to ensure that they meet all requirements as indicated in the CCIA Standards, Procedures and Testing Document. "Should one such tag become available, producers must also prepare themselves for an additional cost associated with the tag", stated Julie Stitt, CCIA Executive Director. Stitt adds, "At this point, we have many producers who have indicated that they prefer being able to pick and choose the color of their herd management tag and the freedom of being able to cut it out without worrying about tampering with the CCIA Approved tag, which is against regulation".

Age Verification and the Canadian Cattle Industry

As of April 9, 2006 almost 1.9 million birth dates were registered in the system. Nadine Meade, Project Manager of Database Enhancements is very pleased with producer uptake. "The CCIA is extremely pleased with how many producers have voluntarily submitted their animal's birth date data to the system and we will continue to ensure the system remains user friendly". 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.

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. For more information on Age Verification, please contact the CCIA at 1-877-909-2333.

DID YOU KNOW?

The CCIA is a non-profit industry led agency led by a Board of Directors representing all sectors including producers.

"I applaud and concur with your efforts. I would like to thank you and your staff for their continued efforts in the programs and ensuring beef producers have a wider marketable product."

Producer: Wilberforce, ON

Age Verification Frequently Asked Questions

Is Age Verification Mandatory?

Currently, 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 up to 10 years back 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 Code 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 being successfully reported.

www.canadaid.ca

Community Pastures Tagging Reminder:

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 community pasture, exhibition site, test station or veterinarian clinic (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."



#218, 6715- 8th Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 7H7
www.canadaid.ca ~ 1-877-909-BEEF

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