



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Overview of the Canadian livestock identification and traceability system

Presentation to USAHA

October 2017

Canada



Political direction

- In 2006, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture and Food announced the need for an enhanced National Agriculture and Food Traceability System (NAFTS) beginning with livestock and poultry.
- Such a system would be supported through regulations and a funding framework.
- Four sectors were originally prioritized in the development of a traceability system: bovine, ovine, pigs and poultry.
 - Interest received from other sectors: caprine, cervid and equine.

The players and their responsibilities

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 - Regulator and verifies compliance
 - Managing sanitary issues (OIE listed diseases)
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
 - Financial and administrative support, policy development
- Provincial and Territorial Governments
 - Regulator and verifies compliance
 - Managing sanitary issues (non-OIE listed diseases)
 - Identification of holdings (premises) where livestock are kept
- Responsible Administrators
 - Private, non-for-profit organizations that manage regulated traceability data on behalf of the CFIA

Program design (current federal regulations)

- Scope: ruminants (bison, bovine, ovine) and pig
- Identification Requirements
 - Ruminants: approved ear tag with ISO 11784 number applied prior to leaving the farm of origin
 - Pigs: depending on destination; could include ear tags with ISO number or herd mark; shoulder slap tattoo with herd mark
- Movement Reporting Requirements
 - Import, export
 - Slaughter, disposal
 - Issuance of tags (which provides farm of origin)
- Premises Identification
 - Different policy instruments used by provincial governments
- Information reported to responsible administrators within 30 days of event occurring

Program design (proposed in 2018)

- Scope broadened to include goat and farmed cervid
- Movement Reporting Requirements
 - Individual animal receipt at all sites with some exceptions (auctions, assembly yards) where group receipt would be required.
- Premises Identification
 - Federal requirement to complement provincial efforts.
- Movement Document to Accompany all Livestock and their Carcasses
 - Complementing provincial requirements.
- Time period to report information reduced to less than seven days of the event occurring.

CFIA pre-consulted with APHIS on proposed requirements in September, 2017



Information management

- Animal identification and traceability data is collected in numerous information systems managed by responsible administrators and provinces/territories.
- Exchange of information supported
 - Technically through the Traceability National Information Portal which is built based on a UNCEFACT data dictionary.
 - Legally through data sharing arrangements between CFIA and provinces/territories while respecting privacy acts and regulations.
- Access is provided only to authorized users.
- Purposes for which information is collected and may be disclosed is documented and approved by the Privacy Commissioner.



Animal indicators

- Approval process for animal indicators is based on laboratory and field tests.
- At a minimum, ICAR standards must be met; cold temperature requirements are added to Canadian standards.
- Visual and low frequency RFID technology used.
- Retention, and not readability, is the most important issue being faced.
- Animals imported from the U.S. do not need to be re-identified with a Canadian approved indicator if they bear an approved 840 tag.
 - This maintains the lifetime history of the animal.



Opportunities for collaboration

- Sharing information on field and laboratory trials for indicators.
- Using a common data dictionary to support management of a trans-boundary disease outbreaks.
- Standardizing and promoting the use of premises identification in the U.S. will help with streamlining reporting, improve trace back and minimize the burden on producers.
- U.S. and Canada eliminating the requirement for tattoos in addition of mutually-recognized indicators to reduce costs for exporters and maintain the lifetime history of animals.





Traceability lessons learned in Canada

- Traceability systems cannot be built in isolation – they require industry/government collaboration.
- Invest in forums where industry and governments can work together on developing policy, identifying investment priorities, and building communications and best management practices.
- Program design needs to balance industry readiness and costs to implement with the identified performance targets of the system. A phased in approach taken with the focus on continuous improvement in the long term.
- Focus attention on data integrity and data quality at every stage of the process to ensure that the information received is of value when needed. Don't be afraid to continually evaluate progress.
- Financial investments by industry will help industry own risks and get more industry buy-in for preventative / control programs.