

# Traceability in Alberta



September 2015

## Traceability and the Equine Industry

Traceability is a crucial component of an effective animal health and food safety system that enables precise and rapid emergency response to protect livestock, producers and consumers. Determining where livestock have been and what other livestock they have come into contact with allows for efficient emergency planning and response. Traceability in Alberta relies on the three fundamental pillars of premises identification, animal identification and animal movement.

### 1 Premises Identification

Premises Identification (PID) is a way of linking livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. The information collected through the provincial PID System allows industry and government to efficiently locate animals and notify owners of an emergency that might affect their animals.

In Alberta, if you own a livestock animal (including equine) or poultry and that animal is kept at a premises other than a commingling site, you need to apply for a PID Account and obtain at least one PID Number associated to where the animal(s) are located. If you own an animal that is only kept at locations controlled by someone else, such as a stable, and that animal will never be kept at a premises under your care and control, such as your farm or acreage, you are not required to have a PID Account. However, you will need to obtain the PID Number from the operator of the site.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. a 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).

You may be asked for a PID Number when transporting your animals as it is to be recorded on some transportation documents. You will require a PID Number when buying medication at a licensed retail outlet or for transactions

involving livestock at an auction market. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements.

Holding a PID Account is a legal responsibility that may require action in the event of an emergency. Youth may apply for an independent PID Account at age 16, but are encouraged to use a parent's PID Account and number(s) unless he/she anticipates owning livestock after the age of 18 and are fully prepared to take on the responsibility of their own PID Account.

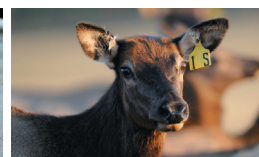
**To register a premises, or for more information about premises identification, contact:**

Alberta Ag-Info Centre  
Toll free in Alberta: 310-FARM (3276)  
[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)



Alberta  
Government

[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability)



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## 2 Animal Identification

Animal Identification, for equines, is the ability to identify individual animals. Animal identification works with the other pillars of traceability, premises identification and animal movement, to track where animals have been transported and when.

At this time, there is no single nationally or provincially recognized method of physically identifying individual animals in the equine industry. Government and industry are working together to identify an acceptable standard of animal identification. Registration papers, bills of sale, brands, tattoos and microchips can be used to demonstrate ownership of equine animals.

Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) offers a Lifetime Horse Permit containing photos of your horse that is issued following an inspection from an LIS Livestock Inspector.

Although this is not mandatory, you may use this to help identify your equine. Contact the LIS head office toll free at 1-866-509-2088 for more information on the Lifetime Horse Permit.

**For more information on animal identification in the equine industry, contact:**

Alberta Ag-Info Centre  
Toll free in Alberta: 310-FARM (3276)  
[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/traceability)



## 3 Animal Movement

Animal Movement is the act of tracing equines and other livestock throughout their lifetime based on animal movement records. Movement records are vital because the faster we can locate where livestock has been, the more effectively we can determine which equines and livestock are at risk of being affected in a disease outbreak.

An Alberta Livestock Manifest is required to transport or drive equine within Alberta when the equine is being transported to an inspection site, such as a livestock market, livestock assembly station, feedlot and abattoir, or when the equine is being transported for sale or slaughter. Horse owners require a Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) Livestock Permit to document the movement of horses to a destination outside the province as well as when the equine leaves an inspection

site. LIS Special Permits allow for travel outside of Alberta more than once in a calendar year. The Lifetime Horse Permit is another Special Permit that allows an owner to transport a horse outside Alberta multiple times during its lifetime.

**For assistance, contact your local LIS Livestock Inspector:**

Livestock Identification Services Ltd.  
109, 264 Midpark Way S.E. Calgary, AB T2X 1J6  
1-866-509-2088  
[www.lis-alberta.com](http://www.lis-alberta.com)



# Traceability Protects!

Your Animals - Your Livelihood - Our Future