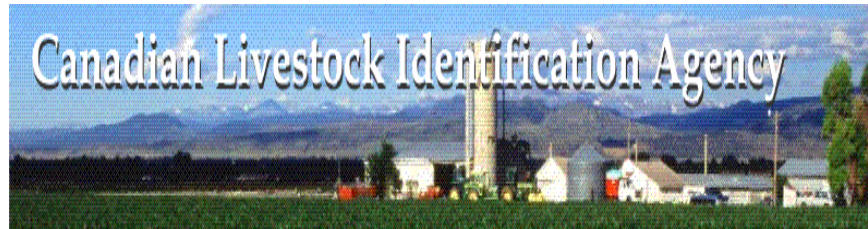


Canada's Multi Specie Traceability Initiative





- **Background**

- For some time in Canada, livestock identification has been widely recognized by producers and public administrators as a key requirement in ensuring our ability to contain and eliminate reportable animal diseases, assure food safety and deliver food quality.
- In the late 90's the cattle industry provided the vision, leadership and commitment to move in this direction with the creation of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA). This decision to move forward had huge strategic implications with the discovery of BSE in 2003 and was one of the largest single contributors to the early resumption of trade.



- **Background ... continued**

- In 2002 traceability was positioned from a government policy perspective, as a key component in an integrated, adaptable agri-food knowledge system. Livestock/poultry traceability was fingered to lead the process and I believe that decision was made in recognition of the expertise and experience gained by the cattle industry through CCIA.



-
- **Canadian Livestock Identification Agency (CLIA)**
 - The first step in building a multi species approach to traceability was the creation of the Canadian Livestock Identification Agency and that began in 2004.
 - Its mandate was to facilitate the industry development and implementation of traceability systems.



-
- **CLIA's Strategic objectives included:**
 - provide the platform for inter-commodity discussions on identification and traceability issues, and;
 - establish basic multi species national standards for various data elements including:
 - premises ID,
 - individual animal or group identification, and:
 - animal movement.
 - a national standards framework has subsequently been completed.



-
- **One National Repository?**
 - In the early stages of developing a Canadian multi specie traceability system, there was a stretch goal to develop one national traceability data repository that would house animal ID, premises ID and track movement.
 - This has proven to be an almost unattainable goal in that Canada already has several functioning systems.

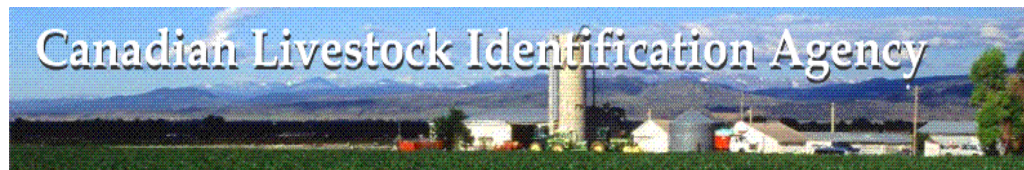


-
- **One National Repository? ... continued**
 - The second factor is that governments have been given the responsibility to lead on the critical issue of premises identification, since provinces already have functioning land title databases which are supported by regulatory frameworks.
 - The challenge now becomes how these separately functioning databases will interface with each other to create an effective and efficient traceability network.



- **The Interface Challenge**

- One example of this challenge is that the geographic location of any premise where animals are kept, assembled or disposed of, must be identified uniquely.
- The circumstance of having several databases operating within a system requires implementation of a “National Premises Location Allocator” (PLA) that assigns a unique identifier associated with a unique physical location.
- How we accomplish this is one of the unfinished pieces of business in designing the system.



-
- **The Interface Challenge ... continued**
 - And by the way, provincial governments, because they are the custodians of land title information, will also have the responsibility for developing and implementing premises ID validation & verification processes.
 - With a proliferation of databases within the traceability system, there are growing concerns about how we protect the confidentiality of personal information ... this message emanates from the grass roots and must be addressed.



-
- **The Government/Industry Partnership**
 - In mid 2006 government invited the specie groups to participate in what they called the Industry Government Advisory Committee (IGAC) which was to provide the facilitation role for government and industry to reach agreement on a traceability planning framework.
 - The mandate of IGAC concludes December 31st, 2007.



- **Industry Responds**

- As the government/industry process began in earnest to develop a national traceability framework, the specie groups began to recognize they needed to work much closer together and the Canadian Livestock Identification Agency was well positioned to provide the organizational structure.
- Through CLIA the specie groups are now collaborating in their efforts to influence traceability policy, strategies and outcomes.



- **Industry Establishes Traceability Guiding Principles**

To help focus it's energy and resources, industry established some basic traceability guiding principles

- 1) Livestock/poultry traceability initiatives will be a collaborative process of industry and government, but implemented and managed by industry.
- 2) Livestock/poultry traceability initiatives benefit both industry and the public good, and the long-term sustainability/costs must therefore be a shared responsibility of industry and government.



- **Industry Guiding Principles ... continued**

- 3) Species groups are responsible for developing and administering their own traceability programs and in doing so, the species group shall not jeopardize the health status of another species.
- 4) The critical elements of any traceability system must be limited to those needed to achieve emergency management of designated animal disease outbreaks.



- **Industry Guiding Principles ... continued**

- 5) Traceability information can only be accessed for authorized purposes by authorized users. The private and confidential information contained in the traceability system must be protected and safeguarded by a memorandum of understanding with the industry group.
- 6) The geographic location of any premise where animals are kept, assembled or disposed of must be identified uniquely and shall be verified and validated by provincial governments.



- **Industry Guiding Principles ... continued**

- 7) Each animal or groups of animals must be uniquely identified and it is the responsibility of each species sector to receive approval from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for the methodology to be used for identification of their species.
- 8) Animal movement information will be recorded and reported as determined by individual specie traceability initiatives.



-
- **Industry Guiding Principles ... continued**
 - 9) Traceability programs must strive for efficiencies by taking advantage of existing infrastructure systems and not create unwarranted duplication.
 - 10) The capacity and need of species groups to implement traceability will vary and therefore implementation strategies, including timeframes may also differ by specie.

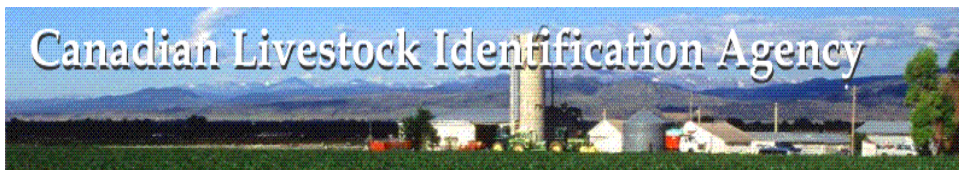


-
- **Critical Issues:**
 - From the reference points established by its guiding principles, industry has identified some critical traceability issues that need resolution. They include:
 - 1) Traceability's expanding mandate and confidentiality of producer information .
 - 2) Duplication
 - 3) Premises identification
 - 4) Sustainability



- **Conclusion**

- Livestock/poultry traceability in Canada has realized a tremendous amount of progress.
- Industry and government are in agreement on a great majority of the components that make up the traceability framework and making progress on the remaining critical issues.
- Its not whether we will succeed in developing a multi specie traceability system, it is when it will be fully functional!

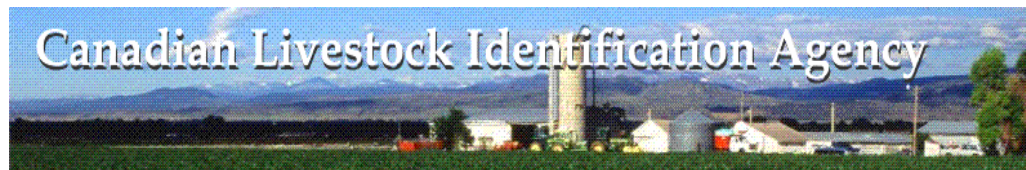


- **Addendum ... CLIA electronic manifest pilot project**

The Canadian Livestock Identification Agency has nearly completed the development of a national pilot program that will allow producers, transporters, or identification agencies to track animal movement electronically. Both individual animals and group movements will be tracked

It is believed the use of electronic devices by livestock carriers will aid in the rapid and efficient capture of data, while minimizing errors. This will facilitate any type of movement reporting, anytime, error free and in real time.

The pilot will implemented across Canada this fall.



-
- Contact information:

Ron Axelson

Canadian Livestock Identification Agency

raxelson@canadianlivestockid.ca

(403) 274-3500

#217, 6715 – 8th St. NE

Calgary, AB. Canada T2E 7H7