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# DAIRY NEWSLETTER

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## ProAction Traceability

Livestock traceability is all about emergency preparedness. In the event of a major disease outbreak or food safety risk, the ability of an effective and efficient livestock traceability system will be key to limiting damage and adverse negative outcomes for humans and animals.

Currently, tags purchased are registered to an individual producer and when that animal is slaughtered, there is knowledge of where it originated, but limited information on the possible many stops it made along its lifetime journey. This has caused some issues, especially in young veal calves, where antibiotic residues are present at slaughter, but the lack of traceability limits the CFIA's ability to determine who else could have treated the animal and the blame lands on the farm where the calf was tagged.

The Livestock Traceability module of ProAction aims to ensure that dairy farmers comply with federal identification regulations and to improve the Canadian standards for animal traceability in the dairy sector. It is also important in maintaining the trust of trading partners, keeping markets open and gaining access to new markets.

### Traceability Requirements at a Glance:

There are six primary requirements as part of this module for ProAction – 5 of which are mandatory and must be completed to ensure a successful validation.

#### *Requirement 1: All farms must have a valid premises identification number.*

- Good news – this requirement is already complete for all Ontario Dairy farmers. Simply log onto your DFO website account ([www.milk.org](http://www.milk.org)) and your PID number appears at the top right hand corner of any of the test results pages. There is some discussion that this number will be required every time we submit samples to the Animal Health Lab at Guelph, to improve disease surveillance.  
**\*\*We are asking all farms call the clinic with their PID number so we can generate a clinic list to make sample submission easier.\*\***



#### *Requirement 2: All farms must have current birth records on farm.*

- This information must be recorded - either on a paper template (ie. DHI book, etc), or in a computer system (ie. Dairy Comp/Scout etc), within 7 days of the calf's birth. Information required for the record include:
  - NLID 15-digit tag number
  - Date of birth
  - Premise ID where the animal was born



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***Requirement 3: All farms must REPORT animal birth information to the national traceability database within 45 days or before the animal leaves the farm***

- The same information from Requirement 2, must also be reported to the National Traceability Database (see below) to fully activate the animal's tag and start the traceability process.
- Information must be reported within 45 days of birth, or PRIOR to the animal leaving the farm.
- DHI will be able to do the reporting for all calves that remain on farm, however producers that market bull calves prior to DHI's visit, will have to report to the database themselves.

***Requirement 4: All cattle born on or after September 1, 2017 and destined for the dairy industry, must be double tagged with approved dairy tags (NLID) at all times***

- Approved tags are available through Holstein Canada, and replacement tags are free and must be used if an animal were to lose 1 or both of its tags.
- Bull calves, or any animal destined for the beef market can be tagged with a single RFID (yellow button) tag, but it is also completely acceptable to also tag these animals with a Holstein Canada NLID tag.
- All cattle born prior to this date will be grand-fathered in to the program and can continue to be identified with a different system or single tag/neck chain, as per CQM animal identification SOPs

***Requirement 5: All new arrivals or animal move-ins, must be RECORDED on farm and REPORTED to the national traceability database***

- This means that all purchased animals, all cattle that come back to the farm after a fair or show, any calf that returns to the farm after IV hook up at the vet clinic, etc, must be recorded on farm and reported to the national database within 7 days of the event.
- Our vet clinic, or the show you are attending, or the sales barn you have sent an animal to will also be responsible for checking in animals on arrival and reporting the animal in the national database.
- Required information includes:
  - 15-digit Animal identification number
  - Date of animal's arrival
  - Premise ID of the farm or site of arrival
  - Premise ID (or address if PID is not available) of the farm or site of departure
  - Vehicle or trailer licence plate number

***Requirement 6: All farms must maintain a tag retirement log and report tag retirements to the national traceability database within 7 days of the event.***

- If an animal dies and is picked up by Atwood Resources, you won't have to do anything!
- If an animal dies and is buried or composed on farm, the death must be reported to the national database to officially "retire" the tag.
- If the animal is exported outside of Canada, the export records must be reported to the national database to officially "retire" the Canadian tag.

**National Traceability Database**

As dairy producers, you will become quite familiar with the National Traceability Database, found at [www.clia.livestockid.ca](http://www.clia.livestockid.ca)

You can do all of the required reporting either via the website, or you can download an APP for your smartphone. The free app can be downloaded for both Android and I-phones and is found by searching "CLTS MOBO". All farms will have to register their own account with the website – which is something you could sign up for today and start becoming familiar with the program.

Currently there is no phone in system for the database, therefore we at the clinic will be discussing ways, and open to suggestions, to assist those clients that require technical support with this matter.