

Livestock Traceability 101

WHAT IS LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY?

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA): "Traceability is the ability to follow an item or a group of items — be it animal, plant, food product or ingredient — from one point in the supply chain to another, either backwards or forwards."

WHY?

Traceability systems are important, effective tools that can be used for many things, including the protection of animal health, public health and food safety. They can help reduce response time, thereby limiting economic, environmental and social impacts of emergency situations such as disease outbreaks.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Livestock traceability systems are based on three basic elements, called the 'pillars' of traceability:

- Animal identification
- Premises identification
- Animal movement reporting

WHO DOES WHAT?

In Canada, livestock traceability currently includes all stakeholders from the farm of origin to the slaughterhouse. All industry stakeholders have different responsibilities depending on their place in the production chain. Dairy traceability events must be reported to DairyTrace as the national traceability system administrator.







