



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

President

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Présidente

Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0Y9

PRC 023328

MAR 03 2020

Mr. Corey Beck
Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
P.O. Bag 100
Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2020, regarding the proposed changes to the livestock identification and traceability requirements in Canada.

As detailed in Dr. Jaspinder Komal's response to Mr. Lawson's letter of July 22, 2019, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is considering advancing proposed regulations to strengthen the traceability system in order to enable effective and timely disease control investigations, better manage animal health, and help improve Canada's capacity to maintain market access as well as consumer confidence.

With respect to resolution 12-20 of the Alberta Agricultural Service Board, I wanted to take this opportunity to note that the current and proposed livestock traceability regulations are outcome-based; in that there is no prescribed method or technology by which regulated data is provided to the administrators of the program or by which the identification numbers of tags must be read and reported. CFIA encourages industry to innovate and explore effective technology that allows for the introduction of effective identification tags and readers.

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CFIA is having ongoing dialogue with industry sectors on the proposed requirements and open to feedback. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments during the formal consultation period upon publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part I.

I appreciate you forwarding the resolution, which will be taken into consideration as CFIA further develops the regulatory proposal.

Thank you for writing about this important matter.

Sincerely,



Siddika Mithani, Ph.D.
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

c.c.: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Devin Dreshen, Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada, CFIA