

Resolution 12-20
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART XV OF THE FEDERAL *HEALTH OF ANIMALS*
REGULATIONS

WHEREAS: Under the authority of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is proposing significant amendments to the reporting requirements regarding the movement of livestock in Canada;

WHEREAS: The “data requirements” as identified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are exhaustive, unreasonable and seriously taxing to many livestock producers and farm operators;

WHEREAS: Dependable, long range, high frequency identification tags and consequent readers are not currently readily available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency postpone their proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations* until such a time that the identified “data requirements” can be accurately collected by livestock producers and farm operators.

SPONSORED BY:	<u>Municipal District of Pincher Creek</u>
MOVED BY:	<u>Frank Welsch, M.D. of Pincher Creek</u>
SECONDED BY:	<u>Shawn Rodger, County of Warner</u>
CARRIED:	<u>84%</u>
DEFEATED:	<u></u>
STATUS:	<u>Provincial</u>
	<u>Alberta Agriculture and Forestry</u>
DEPARTMENT:	<u>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</u>

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is proposing amendments to federal traceability regulations which would require reporting of information referred to as “data requirements” any time an animal is moved from one premise to another. The proposed amendments are identified explicitly in the ***Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update. N° 5, June 1st, 2019.***



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians, the environment and economy.

Livestock traceability is the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life. There are three main pillars to livestock traceability systems:

- Identification of livestock with an approved indicator;
- Identification of premises where livestock are kept, assembled or disposed of, and,
- Reporting events related to livestock such as movement of animals from one premises to another.

The goal of the livestock traceability system is to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to reduce the impacts of a disease outbreak, food safety issue or natural disasters originating from and/or affecting livestock.

The Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) has been administered jointly by CFIA and industry since 2001. The program is regulated and enforced under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, made under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act*.

Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update. N° 5

June 1st, 2019

Topic: Reporting Animal Movements

The objective of the TRACE Newsletter is to provide an overview of progress on proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal *Health of Animals Regulations* (hereafter referred to the "Regulations") that pertains to livestock identification and traceability. This fifth edition focuses on one of the key elements of the regulatory proposal: reporting animal movements.

Why are amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* being proposed?

The CFIA is proposing amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* to strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system. The proposed federal traceability regulations would require, amongst other things, reporting the animal movement to a responsible administrator for a location where, for example an animal has been received or slaughtered.

Why is reporting animal movements important?

A traceability system with information on an animal's movements from one point to another throughout the supply chain will make it easier to control the spread of disease and minimize the impact on the industry. The proposed amendments are expected to strengthen Canada's ability in responding quickly to health threats and other emergencies.

What information related to the movement of animals and carcasses is important in managing health issues?

The information needed to manage health issues and that would be required to be reported are referred to the "data requirements"; these requirements are described in the table below.

Data requirements	Rationale for making this information available
Identification number on an approved indicator applied to the animal or carcass	Movement information associated with the identity of a specific animal or group of animals allows confirmation of which animals have been slaughtered, imported or exported or may have been impacted with a health issue;
Identification number of the premises (site) of departure and of destination	Provides a geographical representation of a health issue and enables identifying where the disease may have spread;
Date and time at which animals were loaded and unloaded from a vehicle	Enables time-stamping in conjunction with animal contact information which could be used to determine the sequence at which vehicles were used and consequently improve accuracy of which sites may have been impacted by a disease outbreak;
License plate number or other identification of the vehicle's non-motorized trailer.	Despite cleaning and disinfection measures, vehicles may serve as a disease vector. Knowing their usage serves assessing where the disease may have spread.



Definitions

Animals means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid, pig or sheep

Caprine (Goat) means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the genus *Capra*.

Cervid (deer, elk) means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the family *Cervidae*.

Community pasture means a pasture that is managed by or leased from the Government of Canada, a provincial government or a municipality, or owned by, managed by or leased from a community pasture association, a grazing association or a grazing cooperative, and where animals from more than one operator of a farm are assembled and commingled.

Domestic means within Canada

Farm means land, and all buildings and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

Reporting means providing set information to a responsible administrator (i.e. Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canadian Pork Council or Agri-Traçabilité Québec)

Ruminant means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid or sheep

What would be the proposed requirements specific to animal movement? (Data requirements outlined above)

Domestic movement of animals within a farm	The movement of ruminants would not be required to be reported The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.
Domestic movement of animals to a farm	The operator of the farm would report the receipt of ruminants, with the exception of cervids, at their site, namely the data requirements , within seven days of receiving the animals. The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.
Domestic movement of animals from a farm	The operator of the farm would report the departure of cervids from their site, namely the data requirements , within seven days of the departure of the cervids. The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.
Domestic movement of animals to a fair, an exhibition hall, or a feedlot	The operator of the fair, exhibition hall or feedlot would report the receipt of animals at their site, namely the data requirements , within seven days of receiving the animals.
Domestic movement of animals to an auction market or an assembly yard	The operator of the auction market or assembly yard would report the receipt of animals at their site within seven days of receiving the animals, namely the data requirements with the exception that instead of reporting the identification number of an approved indicator applied to the animal or carcass, the operator would report the quantity of animals received and their species.
Domestic movement of animals to a community pasture	The operator of any site from where animals are moved (with or without being loaded into a vehicle) to a community pasture would report the departure of animals from their site within seven days of the animals' departure, namely the following information: the premises identification numbers of the departure site and of the community pasture; the date the animals departed from the departure site; the species of animals transported or moved and the number of animals of each species; and the licence plate number of the conveyance (if applicable). The operator of the community pasture would be exempt from reporting movement information.
Domestic movement of animals to an abattoir	The operator of an abattoir would report the slaughter of animals at their site, namely the data requirements , within seven days of slaughtering the animals.



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Domestic means within Canada

Farm means land, and all buildings and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

Reporting means providing set information to a responsible administrator (i.e. Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canadian Pork Council or Agri-Traçabilité Québec)

Ruminant means a bison, cattle, goat, cervid or sheep

	<p>Moreover, the operator would be required to report the departure of live animals from the site, namely the data requirements, within seven days of the departure.</p> <p>These requirements would apply to all abattoirs (federal, provincial or municipal inspection, mobile abattoirs)</p>
Domestic movement of carcasses to a rendering plant or deadstock collection centre	<p>The operator of rendering plant or deadstock collection centre would report the receipt of carcasses at their site, namely the data requirements, within seven days of disposing the carcasses.</p> <p>The current movement reporting requirements for pig carcasses would remain.</p>
Import, export of animals	<p>Importers and exporters would report the import or export of animals, namely the data requirements, within seven days of importing or exporting the animals. However, instead of reporting the premises identification number of a foreign location where animals were imported from or exported to, the importer or exporter would report the country and sub-division of that country (e.g. State of the United States) from where the animals were imported or exported. Date and time of loading in a vehicle at a location outside Canada would not be required to be reported.</p>

Supporting compliance for proposed requirements

Operators will not be required to use an electronic reader in order to report the identification number of an approved indicator;

Building on current provincial and federal requirements, carriers would be required to provide information to the operator of the destination on the source of animals;

Operators of a farm, a feedlot, or an agricultural fair who choose to use an electronic reader favourably reviewed by the [Canadian Cattle Identification Agency](#) to read the identification number of an approved indicator will be required to report the identification number of indicators read on the first pass, but not those not read.

When can I comment on the proposed regulations?

Following the publication of the proposed regulations in Part I of the Canada Gazette (www.gazette.gc.ca), stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment. The CFIA will review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulation amendments and publishing them in Part II of the Canada Gazette.

The Agricultural Service Board of the M.D. of Pincher Creek submitted the following letter to outline our concerns on July 22, 2019:



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PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA
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email: info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca
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July 22, 2019

Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Chief Veterinary Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

RE: Proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*

Dear Dr. Komal:

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek would like to express some serious concerns regarding the most recent proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*. Certain of the proposed amendments as we understand them, are impractical and will place a significant and in many cases unachievable burden on farm livestock producers in Canada.

We see the provision of individual animal data proposed for movement of domestic animals to and from a farm to be particularly problematic. The “data requirements” (as identified by the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update No. 5), are rather exhaustive and include a number of details that are not generally kept by many operators. Additionally, where livestock are transferred between two farm operations or received from a livestock auction, individual identification is commonly not available or provided to the purchaser. Even where provided or available, the same operators in many cases simply do not have access to readers or facilities at each location that would allow them to get the data at time of entry. Lastly, premise identification numbers are not readily shared amongst landowners and the proposed 7-day reporting period is seriously taxing.

A multitude of common circumstances exist which increase the impracticality of the identified reporting requirements. In instances where livestock are delivered to a particular location, and those originate from a variety of sites and the location is “shared” by more than one producer, the proposed reporting requirements are particularly unreasonable. This situation is relatively

common based on current buying practices and the prevalence of shared grazing arrangements, pasture rentals, grazing co-operatives, etc. .

Being that long range, high frequency tags and consequent readers are not currently readily available, reading and recording tag numbers of pastured cattle presents a substantial challenge. Before individual animal identification and reporting can reasonably be imposed throughout the system, we encourage the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to provide a significant level of support to improve tag and tag reader technology and availability. This development is critical prior to amending reporting requirements as proposed.

We support practical and effective improvements to traceability of livestock throughout the Country. Producers have commonly branded and ear-tagged their stock for decades as a practical way to achieve that. While new and more universal measures may be necessary and can no doubt be made, it is imperative that the circumstances and capacity of average producers be recognized and taken into account at all stages. We hope that the comments made within this letter will be considered prior to finalizing the regulation amendments. We encourage the CFIA to continue to disseminate information in a transparent way to ensure all stakeholders have adequate opportunity to be informed and provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lawson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Lawson, Chair – Agricultural Service Board
MD of Pincher Creek

CC: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards;
Alberta Beef Producers;
Canadian Cattlemen's Association;
Canadian Cattle Identification Association

The following response was received from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:



CVO 022692

AUG 26 2019

Mr. John Lawson
Chair, Agricultural Service Board
Municipal District of Pincher Creek
P.O. Box 279
Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K1W0

Dear Mr. Lawson:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 22, 2019, regarding the proposed changes to the livestock identification and traceability requirements in Canada.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing 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.

The CFIA appreciates the beef cattle sector's collaboration with government to develop a full livestock traceability system in Canada. While developing the livestock traceability regulatory proposal, the CFIA consulted with industry in 2013 and 2015, and with the beef cattle industry specifically a number of times. After listening to their concerns, the CFIA revised certain elements of the regulatory proposal. The proposed regulatory requirements align with the Cattle Implementation Plan (CIP) that is supported by the beef cattle sector. For example, operators of auction marts and community pastures would **not** be required to report the identification number of approved tags applied to animals they receive.

The proposed amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* are anticipated to be published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* (CGI) in winter or spring 2020 at the earliest. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed requirements during a formal 75 day consultation period upon publication in CGI. This 75 day comment period following CGI is the most effective way to raise issues with the proposed regulations.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Thank you for writing to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Komal", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Jaspinder Komal
Vice-President, Science Branch
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
OIE Delegate for Canada