

Leadership: Version 2010!

by Holstein Canada President, Germain Lehoux, Saint-Elzéar, QC

Hello everyone.

I am delighted to speak to you again. I must admit that I was missing you. As a friend would say, relationships are like gardens ... you must take care of them!

Firstly, I hope you are having a great summer. Chores must be done, but do not forget your families and children. Without a doubt, they are your most precious assets—take care of them!

May I comment on the wonderful Holstein Convention held in April. Congratulations to Martin Grégoire and his entire team who knew just how to inform us, make us think, and entertain us.

Whether it was the farm visits, the Meeting of the Minds, the evening events or, the Association's Annual Meeting, everything was fantastic.

Mr. Jacques Demers showed us the path, which leads to success. We need to have a goal and be ready to put forth the effort to reach it. We must have a game plan and surround ourselves with the best to fulfill it.

The main elements from the Conference were catalysts for Holstein Canada's new vision.

Finding someone to replace Keith Flaman was no small endeavour. Following an extensive search, Holstein Canada's Board of Directors hired Brian Van Doormaal as its new CEO. This initiated a process to amalgamate two great organizations—Holstein Canada and CDN. Their combined resources (people and money) will demonstrate our leadership in the Canadian dairy industry, as a whole. That is our mission!

Admittedly, there is much work to be done. This amalgamation should be done with respect and a win-win attitude. It must preserve the strengths of both entities. Rest assured that at Holstein Canada, our desire to succeed is only matched by the care that we devote to it. As Keith would say about work to be done: it is best to do it well than to do it quickly!

We look steadfastly to the future with confidence. Surrounded by proficient and dynamic people, your Board is committed to implementing programs and services that exceed your expectations today and, tomorrow!

Traceability, health, and genomics will have a major impact on our farms. Collecting a sample for DNA analysis at the time of tagging is a priority for the dairy industry. Research and awareness of this new technology (done in co-operation with the Canadian Government, AI industry, and Canadian dairy producers) will ensure our position as world leader.

Holstein Canada and its members continue to move forward in their progressive mode.

Until then, goodbye, and enjoy your summer!



Red Herrings

Producers must adopt NLID and ATQ

Canadian dairy producers have been the most progressive of all species regarding national tagging. The first of three pillars toward full traceability is unique **animal ID**. In Canada, it is estimated that 80+% of dairy animals are nationally tagged/identified shortly after birth at the farm. About 20% are not national RFID tagged until they move off-farm for either dairy or beef purposes. However, this meets the current, single-tag standards of beef traceability efforts.

To further strengthen ID efforts, answers to latest questions follow.

I purchased a cow with a yellow CCIA tag and NLID tags (one in each ear). Can I remove the CCIA tag, especially if both are RFID tags in the same ear?

No. Current **Health of Animals Regulations** do not allow for the removal of a nationally-approved tag (dairy or beef).

Both numbers must be included in herd records and cross-referenced.

CCIA yellow beef tags and numbering are not compatible for dairy purposes. Applying NLID or ATQ tags to all dairy animals allows them to move anywhere, at anytime. Dairy producers should rely on dairy tags (black lettering on white)!

I purchased a dairy cow without a national RFID tag. What do I do?

If the animal has been registered, it should already have a security panel tag, Certificate of Registry, and an official, national number. In this case, you would order replacement tags from NLID or ATQ*.

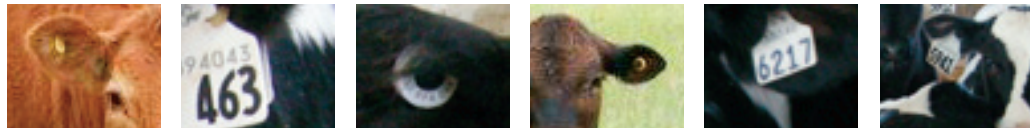
If the animal is not registered, national NLID or ATQ tags must be inserted from the new owner's tag inventory and records updated accordingly.

Can I remove the NLID tags and replace with yellow CCIA tags before selling for beef purposes? I want to prevent someone from registering progeny from her if purchased on the sly from the beef ring for dairy purposes.

No. The fundamental purpose of approved national tags with a lifetime number (Part XV of the H of A Regulations) is to ensure traceability of the animal back to the herd of origin. In fact, it is an offence to tamper or remove these tags—even from cattle destined for beef auction.

If a cull animal is meant for beef and the seller wants to

in Tagging



be completely dissociated with it, the animal should be shipped directly to the abattoir.

Upon sale/consignment, the seller relinquishes all rights and controls over the animal being culled for beef.

While Holstein Canada aids producers in ID efforts, CFIA is responsible for enforcement of animal tagging and tracking regulations.

Do I have to tag a newborn calf if it dies within 24 hours? If yes, can I use a CCIA tag?

Once a calf is born, tagging requirements apply.

If the calf dies at birth or before national tagging, and the carcass is buried on-farm, it does not have to be tagged.

If the carcass is going to be transported or moved off-farm, it must be nationally RFID tagged.

The CCIA single, yellow beef tag minimum is not an option for dairy.

Can I use a yellow CCIA tag/number to register an animal at Holstein Canada?

No. CCIA beef tags (single or a colour set) and numbering are not compatible for dairy purposes, e.g. herd, AI, milk recording.

Yellow, CCIA, individual tags are designed and used by the beef industry for age verification/tag activation. Primarily, they identify animals moving off-farm/ranch.

Because a block of national tag numbers is assigned to each sector (dairy, beef, sheep, bison, etc.), they are not recognized for use within other industries. Moreover, while yellow,

singular, beef tags may meet minimum beef traceability standards, they do not attain the value-added criteria for dairy, other sectors, and certain provinces.

I have a cow with an old bar-coded tag. I want to replace it with an RFID upgrade required for selling or moving off-farm. Should I remove the bar-coded tag?

Official tags, once attached, should not be removed.

Simply obtain a corresponding RFID tag from NLID or ATQ*.

I use RFID tags for herd management, e.g. calf feeders and parlour identification. If I lose the RFID button, can I remove the existing tags and use a new set of tags so I have an immediate solution? I will track the old and new numbers.

In all provinces except Québec, the response is *no*. If a tag is lost, a free replacement tag with the same original, unique, lifetime number should be ordered immediately to ensure uninterrupted animal identification and verification by service staff, e.g.

type classification, milk recording, AI, Canadian Quality Milk.

NLID has an agreement with Allflex to process replacement tag orders within three days. Furthermore, they can be shipped within two to three days by paying a courier fee—\$11 to \$24 depending on location in Canada. There is even overnight service at its toll-free number 1-877-771-6543.

* With ATQ in Québec, producers have a choice. They can purchase an identically-numbered, replacement tag. Alternatively, they can insert a new set and cross-reference both national numbers. This may cause confusion as the number in the animal's ear may differ from the number on the Certificate of Registry and industry databases.

NLID=National Livestock IDentification
ATQ=Agri-Traçabilité Québec inc.
CCIA=Canadian Cattle Identification Agency
CFIA=Canadian Food Inspection Agency



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NLID or ATQ security, dairy, tagging systems provide unique, lifetime identification. This facilitates on-farm management; age verification and tag activation; registration and industry services; and off-farm movement.