

One National Tagging System

for Canada's Dairy Industry



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One national tagging system for dairy animals

One national, seamless tagging system has evolved for dairy animals for the whole of Canada. This means all newborn animals—male and female—are tagged with the same system.

National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) is the umbrella organization for the co-ordination and collaboration of all dairy tagging in Canada. NLID distributes tags to all dairymen in Canada, except Québec. In this province, tags are issued by Agri-Traçabilité Québec, inc. (ATQi).

With consumer expectations for food safety and human health on the rise, NLID and ATQi tags give Canadian dairy producers and the industry an advantage in 1) marketing quality food and premium products; 2) providing domestic and global market access; 3) and assuring consumer confidence.


Three-read system works best

Now accepted as the optimum national ID system, the three-read tag system addresses all basic industry needs. For each set, the animal's unique national identification number can be read three ways—RFID (Radio Frequency ID), bar code, and visual. **The RFID component consists of a microchip button, with a junior panel back. The security tag is correspondingly numbered on the large, bar-coded front panel and large back panel.** Producers opting for a different within-herd management number for male calves may select a separate sequence.

With enhanced tracking capabilities, the three-read system with an electronic microchip offers a higher read and retention rate as more accurate data is captured. Information can be easily read by service personnel and captured by a *wand* or *portal* at an abattoir or sales barn.

Major packing plants are implementing ID reading and transfer systems to ensure they meet Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Canadian Livestock Identification Agency requirements. Additionally, the three-read system complies with the International Standards Organization.

The three-read system meets the standards of various industry groups and contributes to harmonization within Canada, the US, and Mexico. This includes 1) DFC's Canadian Quality Milk program; 2) Canadian Food Inspection Agency; 3) Canadian Livestock Identification Agency; 4) and Canadian dairy breed herdbooks.



The four component parts, identically numbered, come in a handy nest for convenience of tagging on an individual animal basis.

Tags serve all categories of dairy animals

A set of the three-read dairy tags should be used for all newborn calves of both registered and non-registered [grade] status. These tags should be applied to all non-registered, non-tagged dairy purpose animals moving off-farm.

Transition tags are for any remaining untagged, **registered** animals, officially identified with photos, sketches, or tattoos.

This also applies to animals identified with previously grandfathered, 1st series tags (without bar codes).

This qualifies the animal to move off-farm for both dairy and beef purposes. Transition tags are ordered separately given the animal's registration number must be printed on the tag. Personal management numbers are included.



Tagging at birth necessary

It remains important for animals to be tagged shortly after birth with approved national tags.

This is an efficient way to identify animals for national health, tracking, on-farm management, evaluations, and registration.

In addition to the identification and tracking of animals for national health, national tags qualify producers for DFC's Quality Milk

Program regulating milk and meat to ensure food safety and exportation.

Herd owners, family members, and/or employees must ensure the tagging process continues under all circumstances.



The Allflex Universal Tagger is to be used to conveniently insert both the thicker RFID button tag and corresponding panel/floppy tags.

Red tagger is a must

The red-coloured Allflex Universal Tagger must be used to conveniently insert both the thicker RFID button tag and corresponding panel/floppy tags. This red tagger is designed to accommodate both types of tamper-evident tags and to quickly release after attachment.

Tag positioning key for maximum results

Producers have discovered that taking more time and care with the initial placement of tags is critical to long-term tag retention, appearance, and program integrity.

Health of Animals legislation requires that RFID microchips and panel tags must be applied in the front of ears with the national logo facing forward as shown. These front facing tag components are easily recognized by their protruding round black caps and laser printed logo.



The panel tag set should be located between the two main centre veins of the ear and approximately one inch closer to the head than mid-point between the tip of the ear and head. The RFID button tag with small junior panel back can be placed even slightly closer to the head.



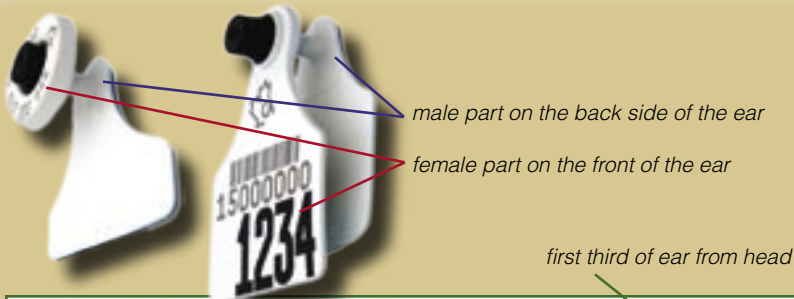
RFID microchips and bar-coded panels are positioned inside the ear and visible from the front of the animal.

Placing tags in this slightly thicker and tougher part of the calf's ear ensures a tighter fit (reduces stem play and chance of snagging), while allowing for animal growth.

Dairymen now take extra care to ensure facilities remain animal-friendly to reduce tag loss.

Housing facilities and holding areas are snag-free, as much as possible.

String, protruding nails, cuts/holes/overlays in metal sheeting, and any other catch or rub points are eliminated to provide the best environment.





The thumb is used to hold the ear open and as a guide to positioning the tag.

Tagging steps

1. Ensure tag numbers correspond so that
 - a) all four tags in the set have the same series of numbers, and
 - b) the transition tag number corresponds with the registration/lifetime number on the Certificate of Registry.
2. Depress the spring clip and insert the front bar-coded panel tag or RFID microchip button.
3. Slip the appropriate rear panel tag snugly on the applicator pin.
4. Rotate the front bar-coded panel 90 degrees left for the left ear, and 90 degrees right for the right ear for ease of visibility and to properly position the tag and tagger.
5. Properly restrain the animal, regardless of age; tag from the front.



This is another method of restraining a young calf for ease of tagging.

Prompt replacement of lost tags

It is vitally important to promptly replace lost tags to ensure uninterrupted animal identification and facilitate verification by all service representatives and agencies (type classification, milk recording, AI).

Check that the numbering on the replacement tag matches the animal's number. Select a new tagging site if the previous hole is enlarged or on the outer surface of the ear.

If the RFID or large panel tag is the temporary sole identification, it is advisable to attach a generic tag, a photo, or sketch for backup until the replacement is attached.

NLID replacement dairy tags are reissued with the same original number and, if lost through normal wear-and-tear, replaced free of charge. This applies to all Canadian dairymen, except those in Québec. These producers must contact ATQ_i for all replacement tags. The ATQ_i tags are replaced with the same number, but at cost.

Owners applying for a replacement must provide the animal's lifetime number and within-herd ID for identity verification, and cause of loss (if known).

Properly tagged dairy animals can move off farm anywhere at any time.

Dairy standard is dual/security tagging—one set in each ear at all times.



These are NLID replacement dairy tags. Note official replacements contain an "R" on the panel component.

Labels produced for convenience

Two self-adhesive labels are included with tag orders printed with the same unique lifetime numbers as on the tags. Use of the pre-printed labels reduces duplication and the risk of error when printing identification numbers.

One label is for on-farm use. It can be attached to the Herd Event Recording Calendar. The second label should be adhered to the designated area on the Application for Registry with the respective breed association. The exception is the electronic submission of details for registration purposes.

Record daily events

The importance and value of recording animal movement details must never be underestimated—good business practice.

Producers should use the Herd Event Recording Calendar or daily events log to record new animals entering the herd; new animals comingling with animals within the herd; and animals sold, disposed of, or exiting the herd. Basic information should include 1) unique lifetime number of animal, 2) date of event, and 3) seller or buyer (drover or trucker).

Producers record service, birth, and daily events, including movement information in herd records.



Health of Animals Regulations

Every person owning an animal or dead stock, or has the possession, care, or control of it must ensure it is identified by an approved tag applied to its ear with the logo and number facing forward before it moves from the herd of origin. This includes animals moving to livestock shows, test stations, community pastures, or veterinary clinics ... no exception.

No person shall transport, or cause the transportation of an animal or dead stock (carcass) without an approved tag. No person shall receive or cause to be received the reception of an animal or dead stock not bearing an approved tag. No person shall remove an approved tag, or cause an approved tag to be removed from an animal or dead stock. No person shall alter an approved tag to change its tamper-proof nature or its identification number, or make the identification number unreadable.

Where to order tags



All Canadian dairymen, except in Québec, order both calf and replacement tags (NLID or ATQi) through National Livestock Identification for Dairy.

Toll Free: 1-877-771 NLID (6543) Fax: 1-519-756-3502
Mail: P.O. Box 2065, Brantford ON N3T 5W5 www.nlid.org



Livestock producers resident in Québec order both calf and replacement tags (ATQi or NLID) through Agri-Tracabilité Québec, inc. (ATQi).

Toll Free: 1-866-270-4319 Fax Toll Free: 1-866-473-4033
Mail: 555, boul. Roland-Therrien, Longueuil, Qc J4H 3Y9
www.agri-tracabilite.qc.ca

