

RFID Systems and the Benefits to the Sheep Industry

Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) provides producers with an excellent management tool that can potentially provide many benefits to their lamb operation.

The sheep industry is being compelled to use RFID and RFID will soon be mandatory; therefore we need to maximize the benefits of the RFID technology in our day to day operations.

Benefits of RFID include:

1. Traceability

- Emergency disease outbreak management
- Market access

2. Quality Assurance

- Food safety – Reliable record keeping to meet program requirements
- Consumer confidence – Providing documentation for the consumer and producer

3. Management benefits

- Accuracy of data
- Ability to track shipping and receiving
- On-farm animal movement (numbers and location)
- Reduced paper records and storage

4. Reduced labour costs

- Fast weighing and sorting
- Fast data input and retrieval
- Speed of data analysis

5. Flock performance monitoring

- Makes data analysis possible
- Ability to identify underperforming ewes for culling
- Ability to identify high performing ewes for use in breeding replacement stock

6. Marketing

- Ability to finish lambs at target market weights
- Ease of access for the promotion of breeding stock
- Retained ownership and custom feeding management efficiencies
- Verified branded products (grass finish, organic, natural etc.)
- Access carcass grading data



Saskatchewan
Sheep Development Board