

Traceability

What is full traceability?

Traceability¹ or a traceability system is the ability to trace the movement history of an animal as well as the location of an entity by means of recorded identification.

There are three main pillars of traceability systems.

- The identification of animals.
- The identification of departure and destination premises
- The ability to follow their movement.

Animal Identification

All animals must be tagged with an approved registered ID² tag prior to leaving the farm of origin. Tag and related information is stored in a central data base. In the event of disease outbreak or food safety emergency CFIA can access this information.

Premise Identification

The identification of each premise for the purposes of more efficient and accurate investigation in the event of disease outbreak or food safety emergency.

Animal Movement

Authorized agencies have the ability to trace the animal's movement from premise to premise efficiently.

Monitoring and Enforcement

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for making sure animals are tagged with approved tags and animal movement is being reported.

Violations may result in warning letters, fines or prosecution.

Why do we believe traceability is important?

- Traceability will be essential in today's environment with emphasis on food safety and disease outbreak management.
- Traceability will be essential for maintaining and establishing new lamb markets.
- Government is committed to having a national traceability program.

¹ Defined by Industry-Government Advisory Committee

² Tag approved by Minister of Agriculture and Agri- Food Canada

