The Evolution of the Canadian Livestock Traceability System
Overview

- Why ID?
- Historical Perspective
- Structure and Mandate
- Key Components
- BSE Investigation/Enhancements
- Mandate – 10 years later
- What worked?
- What did we learn?
- Future Considerations
Rationale for a Traceback Program?

- Increase consumer confidence
  - food safety
  - animal health
- Ensure market access
  - international recognition
  - increase exports
- Remain competitive
  - other species
  - other countries
A Historical Perspective...

- Provincial Industry Association support
- Consensus from Nat’l ID and Information workshop - May 1997
- Concept endorsed - CCA Annual Meeting in March of 1997
- Business Plan approved unanimously at the August 97 CCA Annual meeting
- CFIA support and need for a National Animal Health and food Safety ID traceback program
- Incorporation of an industry led not-for-profit Agency (CCIA) 1998
  - Establishment of Industry Board of Directors and Expert Committees
- Initial System Release - Jan 2000
- Official Full System implementation - July 2002
Official Implementation - Phased In

» **January 1 2001** - cattle to be tagged by the time they leave their herd of origin. Enforcement via extension and notification.

» **July 1 2001** - all cattle in the system to be identified. Packing plants began to read. Enforcement via extension and notification.

» **July 1 2002** - Full implementation - monetary penalties began
In the Beginning....

Now.....
Structure of the CCIA

- **Board of directors:**
  commercial, purebred, feedlot, auction mart, packing plants, veterinarians, dairy and Quebec

- **Ex officio:**
  government, United States

- **Committees:**
  technical, communications, import/export, auction mart
Canadian Beef Strategy

Mandate of CCIA 1998

To develop and implement a credible and reliable individual identification traceback system for animal health and food safety in Canada.
National Identification and Traceability

- Key Components

1. Information System
2. Legislation/Regulations
3. National Standards
4. Technology
5. Communications
1. Information System

- Industry built and operated
- Proven System/International Recognition
- Technical Infrastructure developed to be adaptable for current or future initiatives
How does it work?

National ID Traceback System

Producers

Tag Manufacturer

Tag Distributor

Issues Tags

Distributes Tags

Issues Tags

Distribution Data

Information

Allocation Data

Rebre Data

Entrust Security

CCIA

Packing Plants

CFIA

GC DATA

CIA Data Server

Data Management
2. Legislation/Regulations

- The Canadian Federal Health of Animals Act - Section 64. (1) (y) is Canadian Federal Government Legislation providing for:
  
  “A National Identification System for animals for the purpose of determining the presence of and controlling or eradicating animal disease”

- National ID Regulations
- Compliance and Enforcement Strategy Document
- Prior to July 1, 2002
  - education and information
  - notice of non-compliance (warnings)
- After July 1, 2002
  - fines issued for non-compliance
3. National/International Standards

- Premises ID
- Individual Animal (Group) Identification
- Identification Devices (tags)
- Tag Distribution
- Data Reporting
- National Audits
- Animal Movement
- Zoning
- Age Verification
4. Technology
5. Communications
CCIA Assistance to the BSE Investigation - 2003

- Provided tag inventory of all quarantined herds involved in traceout (approx. 5000 animals)

- Provided tag history/activity on all tag numbers

- Provided retirement data from the packing plants involved in the investigation

- Supplied information on US plants receiving Canadian cattle and on all available export data

- Provided the use of CCIA scanners loaded with the appropriate tag inventories and experienced personnel, in an effort to identify and send for testing specific animals within a feedlot or herd that had moved off the index herd

- International review committee very complimentary of the BSE investigation.
Enhancement Modules – Post BSE

designed to enhance the current system, and provide the most efficient platform to collect essential Animal ID related data

- Age Verification
- Premise ID
- RFID
- Group Lot
- Animal Sighting & Movement
- Value Added
- Zoning
- Disaster Recovery
Transition to RFID

As of September 1, 2006 all cattle leaving the herd of origin must have a CCIA approved RFID tag applied to the ear.

In order to facilitate the transition to RFID, full enforcement will commence December 31, 2007.

Benefits of RFID

- Retention/Readability
- Data Integrity
- Read at Distance without line of sight
- Value Added/Herd Management/Age Verification
- Full Animal Movement Tracking/Traceability
CCIA Mandate – 10 years later

- Develop and manage a National Traceability System, including the 3 pillars of Traceability (Animal ID, Premises ID, Animal Movement)

- Ensure rapid and efficient emergency response to help protect the Animal Health and Food Safety of the Canadian Livestock Industry

- Maintain industry leadership and ensure the integrity, efficiency, accountability, and confidentiality of the CLTS

- Offer multi-species and value-added services, as requested and required by industry, to help protect market access and meet increasing consumer demands for traceability
What worked?

- Benefits demonstrated to the industry
- Industry initiated and industry led
- Industry Sustainable
- Identify industry/government roles & responsibilities
- Cost-effective/User-friendly
- Proven System/International Recognition/Standards
- All sector participation
- Timely i.e. FMD, BSE
- Data Security/Privacy
- Transition to Mandatory 97-99% tag compliance as reported by CFIA
- Developed to meet the demands of today and tomorrow
- Commitment to not disrupt commerce/market neutral
- Program truly created to protect and create value for the livestock industry
What did we learn?

- Expand industry consultation/buy in
- Include all sectors and industry organizations at outset
- Clearly identify roles and responsibilities
- Initiate program with focus on EID/Strictly monitor quality
- Ensure program integrity/credibility – standards/audit
- Facilitate voluntary value-chain initiatives from outset
- Ensure market neutral
- Walk before you run
- Will never keep everyone happy!
Future Considerations

- Domestic and international requirements for traceability
  - consumer confidence/food safety
- Improve animal health emergency response capabilities
- Technology Enhancements
- Enhanced interface with other groups
- Multi-species infrastructure/traceability
- Cost-effectiveness, efficiency and long term sustainability
- North American and International Harmonization
“If you climb in the saddle be ready for the ride”

Thank you!