

Producing Profits with RFID



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The RFID Advantage

In the sheep industry, as in any business, we are always looking for ways to be more efficient, increase profitability, and to make our jobs easier. The Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) is transitioning to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags and technology to provide improved management tools and to prepare the industry for national traceability.

The RFID factsheet series will help producers take maximum advantage of these opportunities.

Small Changes Can Yield Big Benefits

Producers with smaller flocks can comply with CSIP RFID requirements, and upcoming traceability legislation, without a large investment in equipment or technology. All you need are the right tags and the right tagger.

Research conducted, and experience gained, through the Alberta Lamb Traceability Pilot Project (LTPP) is yielding valuable management and productivity information for producers with flocks of all sizes.

LTPP producer participants found the Shearwell tag saved time and effort by being easy to apply, having a low infection rate and a retention rate of over 99%; it's also the most cost effective RFID tag.

Commercial and seed stock producers can use complete RFID systems to realize profit-boosting management and operational efficiencies. An RFID system is made up of various components; RFID tags, electronic tag readers, and management software. Optional components include electronic scales and handling systems.

When government mandated traceability is implemented, Alberta producers will be ready and can be proud that they are leading the way in the industry in using this innovative new technology.

Traceability is a farm gate-to-plate tracking system that strengthens industry confidence in the quality of our product and supports more efficient operations at every stage of the value chain.

Please visit the Canadian Sheep Federation website to see eight short, step-by-step, instructional videos on tagging your animals.

Canadian Sheep Federation website: www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/tagvideos.aspx

Alberta's project website: www.sheepcentral.ca

Your partners in Building Better Lambs:



CSIP RFID Tags for Alberta Sheep

There are the two Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tags currently approved by the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP).

Allflex Button Tags

- Are sold as a two-part set – ensure front and back numbers match



Shearwell Loop Tags

- Put the tag on the top of the ear.
- Leave room for the ear to grow when tagging baby lambs.



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For best tag retention and readability

- Follow the manufacturer's directions
- Use the right RFID tag applicator (tagger)
- Apply the tags in right position (close to the head)
- Apply the tags between the cartilage (ribs) of the animal's right ear
- The tag transponder should be on the inner side of the ear
- Animals must have only one RFID tag



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Important Dates You Need to Know:

Before December 31, 2011: You can use leftover CSIP pink Ketchum Kurl-lock and CSIP Allflex pink dangle tags

Jan. 1, 2012: All animals born or tagged after this date must be tagged with approved CSIP RFID tags before leaving the farm of origin.

After Dec. 31, 2012: The Ketchum Kurl-lock and Allflex dangle tags will no longer be CSIP approved and will not be accepted at sales, abattoirs, or by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for shipping, transfer or sale of sheep in Canada.

All sheep and lambs entering Quebec must bear the CSIP approved paired tag.
See cansheep.ca for more information.

To order your CSIP tags please call: Canadian Cooperative Woolgrowers at 1-800-567-3693

Alberta Sheep Electronic Identification Incentive Program

On behalf of their members Alberta Lamb Producers worked with the Government of Alberta to develop a 2 year tag incentive program to support the transition to RFID.

CSIP-approved RFID ear tags used on lambs born between December 1, 2010 and November 30, 2012 are eligible for reimbursement. Producers may apply for incentive payments after the lambs have been tagged.

For more information on how to get your RFID Tag Incentive Payment please go to:
www.ablamb.ca/programs/traceability_rfid or www.sheepcentral.ca

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