

Equine Traceability in Alberta

Horse owners typically place great value on their animals. They leave little to chance when it comes to protecting their well being. Careful breeding, precise feeding, attentive handling, effective vaccination - all of these measures help safeguard the health of their animals and ultimately contribute to the protection of the equine industry.

Premises registration is another valuable tool to include in an overall animal health management program. It gives horse owners the power to better protect their animals and their neighbour's animals in the case of a disease outbreak or an emergency such as a natural disaster. A disease outbreak can impact every segment of animal agriculture, bringing serious hardships - the loss of animals, jobs and income. But when an outbreak first occurs, response is local. It starts with you, your next-door neighbours, and your fellow horse owners down the road. Knowing how to reach you is the key to rapid, accurate, and cost-effective disease response. The faster the disease response, the faster an animal disease is isolated, the sooner life gets back to normal for everyone.

Premises ID, Equine ID and Animal Movement form the three pillars of Equine Traceability in Alberta. The following Fact Sheet provides important information for horse owners and those responsible for their care.

Premises Identification Program (PID)

In Alberta, regulations requiring premises identification became law on January 1, 2009 as part of the Animal Health Act. This means if you currently have horses, mules or donkeys (just a few of the "Recordable Animals" as defined by the Act), you must register your premises. If you become an owner of a recordable animal you must apply for a PID account and ID number within 30 days of assuming ownership of the animal.

Here's what you need to know:

If you own the premises where you keep your animal(s).

- Obtain and complete the Premises Identification (PID) application form and Schedule Premises Information Sheet for Animal Owners.

If you board your horse at a boarding facility.

- Obtain and complete the Premises Identification (PID) application form and Schedule A - Premises Information Sheet for Animal Owners;
- Obtain the 9 digit PID number assigned to the boarding facility (premise) from the stable owner or operator and enter it on the Schedule A, Part C, #7;
- Identify yourself as a "User of Commingling Site" in Part D.

If you are the Operator of a Commingling Site.

- Obtain and complete the Premises Identification (PID) application form;
- Complete a Schedule A for each commingling site you operate.

In this Regulation, a commingling site is a location, other than a farm or a ranch, where recordable animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently. They include: abattoirs, animal artificial insemination centres, animal embryo transfer stations, assembling stations, carcass disposal sites, boarding stables, community pastures, fairs and exhibitions, feedlots, livestock markets, race tracks, renderers and veterinary clinics, laboratories or hospitals.

- Part I. Species – Capacity – Indicate the maximum number of horses your operation could accommodate taking into account: land size; forage quality; and your management style.
- Provide your Premises ID number to users of your site, for example, boarders.

Questions?

Visit an Agriculture and Rural Development Office near you or contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) or online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

Forms are available on-line at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises



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Equine Information Document (EID)

Meat products from registered facilities in Canada are produced and inspected to ensure they meet current requirements and safety standards. Canada already has procedures in place to detect and control potential residue issues in the meat supply. All CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) inspected facilities in Canada engaged in the processing of equines for edible purposes, must now have complete records for all animals (domestic and imported) presented. **The new Equine Information Document (EID)** that came into effect July 31, 2010, provides this necessary information. These new requirements for equine will enhance food safety as well as the ability to trace back equine meat products in response to international customer requests and Canada's own objectives.

What is the Equine Information Document (EID)?

Essentially, it is a declaration by the owner of the animal that provides an accurate, detailed description of the animal as well as a comprehensive medical, drug and vaccine history for the preceding 6 months (180 days). The various options for identification, including visual and written descriptions, are listed in the document. A processing facility operator will not accept an animal unless it is accompanied by an EID. The EID is intended to accompany the equine, at the time of ownership transfer, to the buyer of the animal.

Forms are available online:

CFIA website: www.inspection.gc.ca

Alberta Agriculture website: www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Use the Search function on both sites to find the "Equine Information Document"

Forms are available online at

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

NATIONAL ID PROGRAM UPDATE

Many horses in Canada are already identified and registered with a specific breed organization but there are thousands that are not. There are a variety of ID methods currently being used within the industry, i.e. microchip, tattoo, brand, DNA. In an effort to have all equines in Canada identified and, therefore, traceable, the Federal Government has instructed Equine Canada (EC) to develop a national ID program. Over the past year or so Equine Canada has been working with breed and sport organizations to gather information that will be critical to the success of a national ID program. As part of the preliminary work, they have conducted industry surveys and more recently a pilot project. Results will be available early in 2011. The next step will be to apply for Implementation funding from the federal government in order to proceed to the Development and Implementation stages. For more information: www.equinecanada.ca/breeds&industry

TRANSPORTATION OF HORSES

Within Alberta

For most horse owners traveling within Alberta for recreation or competition, a Livestock Manifest or Permit is not required. However, if the horse is being transported for sale, processing or to an inspection site (auction mart, livestock assembly station, feedlot or abattoir) a Livestock Manifest must accompany the animal.

Outside of Alberta

If you travel to areas outside of Alberta you are required to obtain a Permit. Permits are only issued by Livestock Inspectors following an inspection of the animal.

Questions?

To find an Inspector in your area call the Livestock Identification Services Ltd. office Toll Free Line 1-866-509-2088 or check the list available on their website: www.lis-alberta.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need an EID if a Renderer is picking up the carcass?

No, an EID is not required for rendering a carcass.

Do I need an EID to sell my horse?

No, an EID is currently not required to sell your horse. However, if you assign your horse at an auction providing an EID may increase the number of potential buyers.

If a horse has been administered Bute, can it still be presented for processing?

Phenylbutazone (a.k.a. Bute) is not permitted to be used in equine animals that may be used for food. During a transition period, the EID will be reviewed to determine if equine have or have not been treated with non permitted drugs during the 6 months prior to their slaughter. A longer "certification period" may eventually be requested.

Are deworming products allowed in equines presented for processing?

Common deworming products have withdrawal periods ranging from 7 to 36 days that must be adhered to prior to presenting an animal for processing.

What about vaccinations?

It is the additives in vaccines that are the concern. While a 21-day withdrawal period is considered acceptable for most vaccines, it is best to check with your veterinarian as these products are not listed in the EID Annex.

