



BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMISES IDENTIFICATION FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Premises Identification System for livestock and poultry to enhance management of potential animal health and food safety issues and emergencies.

Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments have been working closely with the agriculture industry to move forward on a comprehensive national traceability system for livestock and poultry. The purpose of the traceability system is to effectively manage animal health and food safety issues, as well as expanding market access for Canadian food products. Within the national framework, provincial governments have agreed to lead the implementation process for multi-commodity premises identification and to establish the necessary infrastructure for premises identification.

Premises identification links livestock and poultry to geographic locations for planning and managing emergencies. Over time the national traceability system is expected to encompass all livestock and poultry species being produced in Canada but the current priority is to have farms and ranches producing cattle, hogs, sheep or poultry entered into the British Columbia premises registry as soon as possible. It is recommended that owners of other livestock species (see Premises Identification Registration Form) at other sites where livestock are raised, kept or disposed of should also apply for premises identification numbers and be entered into the premises registry. Premises identification numbers are intended for:

- Farms/Stables
- Hobby Farms
- Feedlots
- Pastures
- Community Pastures
- Hatcheries
- Abattoirs
- Assembly Yards
- Auction/Livestock Sale Facilities
- Rendering Plants
- Zoos/Petting Zoos
- Exhibition/Fair Grounds
- Race Tracks/Competition Facilities
- Veterinary Hospitals/Labs
- Insemination Centres
- Research Facilities

A premises identification number is a unique alpha-numeric identifier assigned to a parcel of land defined by a legal land description, or in its absence, by geo-referenced coordinates, on which or any part of which animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of.

Premises Identification:

- allows for rapid notification of livestock and poultry stakeholders
- helps prepare for animal health and food safety emergencies (e.g. livestock disease and any compromise to food integrity)
- facilitates rapid evacuation of animals in the event of a natural disaster emergency (e.g. flood or fire)
- helps track animals in an emergency
- reduces the impact of an emergency
- helps maintain or provide for greater market access

BC livestock and poultry owners are invited to apply for a premises identification number by completing a Premises Identification Registration Form and submitting it to the BC Ministry of Agriculture. There is no cost to participate and having your operation entered into the provincial premises registry will assist both industry and government in the planning and management of animal health, food safety and natural disaster emergencies.

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document on the Ministry's website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/> for more information. If you have additional questions email BCPID@gov.bc.ca or call the Ministry's office in Abbotsford at 1-888-221-7141 or (604) 556-3001 and ask for a Premises Identification Program Representative.