Q& A on Premises Identification Information

What is Premises Identification (PID)?

Premises Identification (PID) is a tool used to plan for, control, and prevent the spread of livestock and poultry disease. It can also be used as an early warning system to notify people registered in the PID system of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. Having accurate animal locations, contact information and other key data in one system is critical for a quick and effective emergency response.

PID links livestock and poultry to a geographical location or premises. As a pillar of traceability, PID along with animal identification and animal movement reporting, is used to determine where animals are, where they have been and what other animals they have come into contact with. The requirement for premises identification became law in Alberta on January 1, 2009 as part of the *Animal Health Act*.

What is a PID number?

A PID number is a nine character unique identifier assigned to a specific premises when the geographical location is registered in a PID account. In Alberta PID numbers start with either 'AA', 'AB', or 'AT'.

Why do sheep owners need a Premises Identification (PID) Number?

- Buy medication for their animals at retail outlets
- Complete documents such as manifests and permits
- Sell livestock at auction markets
- Buy Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) ear tags
- Apply for some government agriculture grants and programs

The proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal Health of Animals Regulations include the requirement to provide the PID number for the site of departure and site of destination when transporting livestock. This is anticipated to be in effect in 2025.

To review/update your PID information

- Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises to update your information online
- Call 310-FARM (3276)

Keeping Your PID Information Current

Effective emergency response and the ability to protect your animals depends on accurate information. It is important that you update your PID account when there are changes (contact information, animal types and capacity, etc.) or if you no longer have livestock on your premises. Inaccurate and outdated information can put your animals at risk during an emergency by delaying notification or delivering an incorrect response from emergency responders.

The following PID account information should be reviewed regularly:

- account contact information
- emergency 24/7 contact information for the premises
- location of the premises where animals are located (i.e.; legal land description or geo-referenced coordinates)
- type of premises/operation (e.g., farm, abattoir, livestock auction, stable)
- types of animals raised, kept, displayed, assembled, or disposed of on the premises
- maximum capacity for each species of animal on the premises.

Obtaining a Premises Identification (PID) Account

Don't have a PID account? It's free, simple to apply for and easy to update. A new account can be created online or through a paper application.

- Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises

Who needs to apply for PID Account?

If you are in care and control of livestock, poultry or other animals in captivity (excluding cats and dogs) and the animals are kept at your premises, you need to apply for a PID account and obtain at least one PID number.

Animal owners can register additional premises in the PID system. This will ensure they are notified if an emergency happens in the area of these premises and they have species and/or operations that are affected. This is particularly important when those premises are located away from the main operation. If you have multiple parcels with only your animals, in most cases these parcels can be linked together and one PID number assigned.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. boarding stable, community pasture, fair ground, etc.), you are required to obtain a PID account, register **all** your commingling sites and provide the PID number(s) to the users of your site(s).

Your information is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act) and the *Animal Health Act* (AHA).

Please refer to the Premises identification Regulation (under the Animal Health Act) for full details on the requirements.

What is a commingling site?

A commingling site is a location, other than farm/ranch, where animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently. Some examples include feedlots, abattoir,

Do I need a PID Account if I only have one animal?

Yes, you need a PID account because even one animal can receive and transmit infectious diseases, which could affect neighbouring animals and impact an entire industry. Having an up-to-date PID Account ensures that you will be notified in the case of an animal emergency event.

Do I need to register each premises where animals I own and/or have care and control of are located?

Operators of commingling sites are required to register ALL their commingling sites and obtain a PID number for each of these premises.
Animal owners that care for their own animals are required to have at least one premises registered, preferably the main animal operation. It is beneficial for animal owners to register additional premises in the PID system, particularly those located away from the main operation, to ensure they are still notified if an emergency happens in that area. Animal owners can register each premises by completing a separate part B on the paper application form, or adding additional premises once their PID account has been created online.

Will the information I share be kept confidential?

Your information is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act) and the *Animal Health Act* (AHA). It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, in accordance with the AHA, for the purposes set out in the AHA including to plan for or respond to an animal health emergency or to validate premises information in the PID system.