



NEWS UPDATE

SUGGESTED CONTENT FOR INSERTION IN THE
BODY OF YOUR NEXT PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER, 2010

PigTrace Canada, the Canadian Pork Council's swine traceability program, is continuing to work towards the realization of a national traceability system. Since the federal government's May announcement supporting a federal traceability system, PigTrace Canada has been working hard to ensure that a system is in place that is easy to use and is supported by Canadian producers.

The summer months were spent presenting draft federal regulations to the Board of Directors for each provincial pork office. Jeff Clark, Manager of PigTrace Canada, presented the final consultation to the Canadian Pork Council Board of Directors at a meeting in Halifax. The consultations were beneficial to all involved and feedback was positive. Producers are urged to contact their provincial pork office or Jeff Clark directly if they wish to view the draft regulations or if they have any questions or concerns they may wish to have clarified. It is the goal of PigTrace Canada to work closely with producers, stakeholders and all governing bodies to create a traceability system that is proudly Canadian.

PigTrace Canada has also made changes to the available options on the national ear tag, which will mostly apply to breeding stock. Producers now have the option of requesting a maximum of six characters for the custom management number, whereas they were previously limited to four. Producers may also choose an alpha-character as the first or last digit of the management ID number. There is no extra cost for either of these options and the option remains to leave the management area blank in order for producers and managers to write in their preferred information. Identification systems are already used by many for the purpose of barn management. PigTrace wants to ensure the new tag is able to meet the needs of traceability and work for individual business and herd management.

PigTrace encourages producers to consider tagging their breeding swine prior to federal regulations coming into effect. To be able to order the national ear tags, producers must have registered their premise with their provincial pork office, who must in turn register it with PigTrace. Producers whose premises are not registered can do so by phoning their provincial pork office. Tag order forms are also available through provincial pork offices, or can be viewed online at www.pigtrace.ca.

PigTrace Canada is looking forward to implementing the national swine traceability program and is presently seeking producers and industry stakeholders to trial the movement reporting system in the near future. If you wish to participate in the early adoption program or if you have any questions or concerns please contact Jeff Clark at 204-237-7447 or via email at clark@cpc-ccp.com.

This project was made possible by funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through its Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative (CIFS) Program.