



## LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND COMMERCE ACT

### INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUÉ #1 – December 2008

#### LICA is proclaimed – in force effective January 1, 2009

- The *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* received Royal Assent on May 24, 2006, was amended in December of 2007 and will be proclaimed in force January 1, 2009.
- The *Livestock Identification and Commerce General Regulation* will be proclaimed in force January 1, 2009.

#### Legislative review process

The *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* and the *General Regulation* are the result of seven years of industry and industry-government consultation and co-operation. The various sectors of the beef cattle industry were actively engaged with each other and with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) and Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) throughout the entire process.

The industry organizations that participated and contributed to the successful outcome were:

- Alberta Beef Producers
- Western Stock Growers Association
- Alberta Cattle Feeders Association
- Feeders Associations of Alberta
- Alberta Auction Markets Association
- Alberta Milk
- Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association
- The packing industry, purebred sector and the lending community
- the sheep, bison and diversified livestock industries

The various sectors of the beef cattle industry and government reached agreement on the broad policy objectives to be achieved through the enactment of the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act*. Of particular importance to the beef cattle industry was that brand registration, regulation of sales transactions and livestock identification facilitate fair and efficient commerce and create value for those who pay brand registration, brand inspection and licensing fees.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) is to be commended for the degree to which it engaged the beef cattle industry from 2001 to 2008 in the development and drafting of the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* and *General Regulation*. As a result of the co-operation between industry and government, the *Act* and *General Regulation* reflect the desired policy outcomes of both industry and government. This cooperative process should serve as a model for all future legislative reviews.

#### Modernization of existing legislation

The *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* consolidates and modernizes provisions of the *Brand Act*, the *Livestock Identification and Brand Inspection Act*, and the *Livestock and Livestock Products Act* and the regulations under those Acts. Bringing these Acts and Regulations together allows for a more effective and efficient legislative framework for industry and reflects changes in the industry over the past several decades.

The new legislation will help the day-to-day commerce of livestock operate in a more transparent, harmonized and consistent manner. The *Act* and the *General Regulation* will facilitate fair commerce, protect personal property, and promote the integrity of marketing within the livestock industry for the benefit of every sector of the industry.

### **Value of livestock identification and commerce legislation**

The various components of the Act and the regulation benefit the livestock industry as a whole by deterring theft, providing livestock identification, enhancing traceability, providing enhanced evidence to support a claim for ownership, facilitating livestock commerce and market access and enhancing the confidence of purchasers and lenders. Taken together the provisions of the Act and Regulation reduce the risk of loss within the industry.

### **Further information and education**

Agriculture and Rural Development and Livestock Identification Services Ltd. will be providing further information with respect to the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* and the *Livestock Identification and Commerce General Regulation* as the new legislation is implemented in the New Year.

Copies of the legislation can be obtained from the Queen's Printer at [www.qp.gov.ab.ca](http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca).

Information on the requirements of the Act and Regulations will be available in the New Year on the following websites:

Livestock Identification Services Ltd. [www.lis-alberta.com](http://www.lis-alberta.com)

Agriculture and Rural Development [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca).