

Report from the ABP Working Group on Traceability

September 11, 2026

Prepared by:

Mark Olson

Norm Dreger

agadvisorycouncil.com

Final Report September 11, 2026



INTRODUCTION.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Purpose and Context	3
What the Working Group found	3
Direction Supported by the Working Group	4
Recommended Phased Approach.....	4
Conditions for success.....	4
Recommendations to the ABP Board	5
.....	5
BACKGROUND.....	5
WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS	6
Overall Makeup and Logistics.....	6
PROCESS.....	7
MANDATE	7
ABP WORKING GROUP & CCA TASK FORCE	8
What the two mandates reveal	8
COMPONENTS OF TRACEABILITY.....	9
3 Pillars of Livestock Traceability; Beef Cattle.....	9
The Legs of Traceability	9
CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES	10
Regulators/Administrators	10
Value Chain Responsibilities	10
CATTLE MOVEMENT DOCUMENT TYPES	11
CURRENT REALITY	11
RISKS TO INDUSTRY	13
Value of Enhancement	13
Stakeholder Incentives for Effective Animal Traceability.....	14
Cow-Calf Producer Benefits Qualified	14
ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY	15
ALBERTA-CANADIAN PROCESS COMPARISON.....	15
WORKING GROUPS THEMES AND DIRECTIONS	16
Statements to the ABP Board.....	17
MAINTAINING MOMENTUM.....	18
Suggested Action Steps	18
CREDITS/MATERIAL REFERENCES	19
APPENDIX	20
Pre-Work	20
Inter Provincial Traceability.....	21

Introduction

This report captures the discussions and presentation of information at the ABP Working Group on Traceability in July and August of 2026. It considers pre-session questions posed to and responses by the participants. The facilitators also incorporated learnings from subject matter specialists into the portrayal of regulations, responsibilities, and current realities of cattle tracing. ABP sponsored the 2 x 2-day sessions but did not influence the outcome. Similarly, the facilitators' opinions on the issues are not incorporated into this report; however, they will make a concluding recommendation on reconvening the Group to follow up on discussed initiatives and recommendations. AI was used as an efficient method of aggregating all discussion transcripts and third-party inputs. The outputs were reviewed for accuracy, omissions, and tailored to produce summaries and analysis. Quotes inserted for emphasis came directly from the Working Group discussions and were captured without attribution.

Executive Summary

Animal Traceability Working Group | July and August 2026

Central conclusion. Alberta should lead a phased, industry-driven enhancement of cattle movement traceability that builds on manifests and Livestock Identification Services (LIS), connects with the national CCIA/CLTS framework, and proves disease-response value and producer workability before broader implementation is considered.

Purpose and Context

Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) convened a cross-section of producers, auction markets, feedlots, veterinarians, industry organizations, LIS, the Government of Alberta, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for two working sessions in July and two in August 2026. The group on their own volition moved the discussion beyond opposition to the withdrawn federal cattle- and bison-movement proposals to defining the conditions under which traceability could evolve in a way that is effective, practical, trusted and economically workable.

The discussions confirmed broad support for the purpose of traceability, but not for duplicative reporting, technology that adds animal handling or manual data entry work, or requirements that ignore differences among production pathways. Participants emphasized that lasting improvement would depend on producer confidence, visible operational value, and shared industry leadership-not regulation alone.

What the Working Group found

The present system has two material gaps.

First, adherence to existing requirements and accepted practices is uneven, including accurate premise identification (PID), complete manifests, current account information, and consistent use of existing tools. Second, intermediate movement information is often unavailable or difficult to assemble, leaving a largely “bookend” system that identifies an animal at origin and again at slaughter but does not reliably show where it was, when it moved or which animals and premises may have been exposed in between.

Those gaps create an industry-wide risk. CFIA’s review of the 2024 bovine-tuberculosis (BTB) response showed how incomplete records can turn a relatively small trace into a lengthy, labor-intensive investigation. In one example discussed with the group, tracing nine heifers required approximately 25–30 staff hours over more than 60 days; only two were located in a breeding herd, two were confirmed slaughtered, and five remained untraceable. A faster-moving disease such as foot-and-mouth (FMD) would leave far less time to reconstruct movements, establish containment boundaries, and provide trading partners with credible evidence that unaffected regions are safe.

Effective traceability is therefore more than a regulatory or animal-health function. It is infrastructure for protecting market access, limiting unnecessary quarantines, and testing, maintaining consumer and customer confidence, and reducing the financial exposure of producers and the wider beef value chain.

Direction Supported by the Working Group

The group's preferred direction is to improve movement traceability first, using Alberta's existing advantages: livestock manifests, brand inspection, LIS records, feedlot reporting, and established auction-market processes. Any Alberta model must be interoperable with CCIA's Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) and capable of providing authorized access to a clearly defined minimum national traceability data set.

The guiding design principle is "capture once, reuse securely." The e-manifest should become Alberta's principal movement-data conduit and associate RFID numbers where this does not disrupt cattle flow. LIS and CCIA should pursue secure system-to-system exchange that avoids duplicate producer entry.

Recommended Phased Approach

1. **Strengthen the foundation - now to approximately two years.** Clarify current responsibilities; improve PID and manifest completeness; update producer records; promote both proper manifest use and e-manifest adoption; provide simple producer-to-producer communication, practical demonstrations, and hands-on assistance; and begin LIS–CCIA technical planning.
2. **Pilot voluntary enhancements - approximately one to three years.** Enable voluntary attachment of RFID data to e-manifests; test automated LIS-to-CLTS exchange; pilot mobile, panel or other readers at points where cattle are already being handled; test trusted third-party reporting; and address higher-risk pathways such as breeding animals, direct sales and movements that do not end at a terminal feedlot or slaughter plant.
3. **Normalize what works - approximately three to five years and beyond.** Scale only the practices that demonstrate measurable disease-response benefit, acceptable cost and workload, reliable data, producer uptake, and minimal disruption to commerce. Once evidence is available, determine whether any remaining gaps require policy or regulatory support.

Conditions for success

Industry leadership and shared messaging. ABP can convene and lead the Alberta effort, but producer groups, auction markets, feedlots, veterinarians, LIS, CCIA and government partners must carry consistent information to their own constituencies.

Producer value and practical support. Communication must explain the business risk and market-access purpose in plain language and be paired with field-level help from other willing producers. Education is an implementation requirement, not a communications afterthought.

Technology that removes work. Priority should go to better use of existing low-frequency RFID tags, readers, mobile/offline tools, automatic uploads, and data integration. Newer technologies may be researched although should not delay achievable improvements.

Proportionate, evidence-based implementation. Movement pathways should not all be treated identically. Pilots should focus on risk and on places where information can be captured safely and efficiently, then measure disease-response effectiveness (through a simulated exercise), producer burden, cost, data quality, privacy safeguards, and adoption.

Clear governance and authorized access. Roles, ownership, permitted uses, and access to data must be explicit. CFIA remains the regulator and disease-response authority; CCIA administers national identifiers and CLTS; LIS administers Alberta manifests, brands, inspections, and related movement records.

Recommendations to the ABP Board

Advance an Alberta-led program to close two priority gaps:

1. Adherence to current requirements
2. Movement data needed for effective trace-back and trace-forward.

Begin with coordinated communication and producer assistance using existing tools, followed by voluntary pilots that make enhanced movement reporting a normal and valuable industry practice. Maintain interoperability with CCIA/CLTS, evaluate results transparently and preserve the distinction between voluntary industry action and any future regulatory decision.

The immediate task is not to design a perfect national system. It is to maintain momentum, improve what can be improved now, and generate credible Alberta evidence about what works. This approach positions Alberta to strengthen disease preparedness and market confidence while respecting producer profitability, privacy, and the realities of moving cattle.

Basis: July 14–15 and August 13–14, 2026 Working Group transcripts; draft final-report outline; and related CFIA, ABP, CCA, CCIA and LIS materials provided for the project.

Background

Depending on when you start the clock, the CFIA has been working on changes to Part XV of the Health of Animal Regulations Act since 2010 with the focus on amendments to the animal movement aspect between 2013-2015. In 2016, The Cattle Implementation Plan, a collaborative industry effort led by CCIA, identified the targets, steps, and issues in implementing traceability in the cattle industry. The plan proposed phasing in movement reporting providing a number of “principles” for the Canadian Beef Cattle Industry had been adhered to. <https://www.canadaid.ca/traceability/the-cattle-implementation-plan/>

“

THE 2016 WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS UNDERPIN THE CFIA AMENDMENTS

”

Fast forward to March of 2023 when the CFIA proceeded with amendments as published in Part 1 of the Canada Gazette, aligning with the recommendations from the CIP. Significant concerns began being raised by industry. Specifically, the Alberta Beef Producers produced a position paper on behalf of their producers within the 90-day public comment period. In January and February 2026, ABP held producer meetings across the province where concerns over the impact of the proposed regulatory changes became a significant issue. Following a producer town hall in early March at which several other industry associations were represented, ABP proposed forming a working group to develop solutions to deal with the challenges arising from implementation. In the meantime, in the face of industry pushbacks, the CFIA announced in early June 2026 that they would not be proceeding with any amendments related to movement of cattle and bison. Amendments will proceed for other species. The CFIA committed to engage with producer groups to continue to discuss the issue of traceability.

Working Group Participants

Overall Makeup and Logistics

The Group included representatives from the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and the Livestock Identification Services, the provincial administrator charged with registration and reporting. Additionally, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Cattle Association, the Western Stock Growers' Association, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Alberta Auction Markets Association, Alberta Beef Producers' delegates and directors and selected other producers participated. Hence, there was a diverse cross section of the industry value chain present for the discussions. All participants signed off on a communication protocol that restricted the sharing of the discussions to executive briefs prepared by the facilitators following both the July and August sessions. Many attended in person at the ABP boardroom with some individuals logging in remotely to participate. The sessions were recorded for transcription and analysis purposes.

Dr. Peter Lawson , <i>Alberta Veterinary Medical Association</i>	Dorothy Thengs - Director, <i>Alberta Beef Producers (August only)</i>
Steven Malowany - Traceability Program Officer, <i>Alberta Agriculture, and Irrigation</i>	Kirk Wildman - Delegate, <i>Alberta Beef Producers</i>
Jennifer Hannesson - Pork Technology Transfer Specialist, <i>Alberta Agriculture, and Irrigation</i>	Dyanna Marquardt - Delegate, <i>Alberta Beef Producers</i>
Dr. Heather Brown - National Manager, <i>Livestock Traceability Programs, CFIA (August only)</i>	Matt Bowman - Director, <i>Canadian Cattle Association (July only)</i>
Edward Harrison - Senior Policy Specialist, <i>Livestock Traceability Program, CFIA (July only)</i>	Lyle Adams - Director, <i>Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association</i>
Shawn McLean - General Manager, <i>Alberta Livestock Identification Services</i>	Jason Wilson - Vice-Chair, <i>Western Stock Growers' Association</i>
Doug Roxburgh - Chair, <i>Alberta Beef Producers (July only)</i>	Patrick Cassidy - President, <i>Alberta Auction Markets Association</i>
Brenda Rosadiuk - Finance Chair, <i>Alberta Beef Producers (August only)</i>	Jason Smith - Alberta Producer
Brad Dubeau - General Manager, <i>Alberta Beef Producers</i>	Cecilie Fleming - Alberta Producer
Aydon Almberg - Director, <i>Alberta Beef Producers</i>	Anne Burgess - Alberta Producer
Brad Mappin - Director, <i>Alberta Beef Producers</i>	Jody Scheirlinck - Alberta Producer

Process

The direction given the facilitators by ABP leadership was to not rush the Working Group discussions. It was anticipated that individuals needed time to be heard, and the positions of all organizations put forth and qualified. Myths and misunderstandings relating to amendments to Part XV of the Animal Health Regulations gazetted by CFIA and the current reality had to be cleared up. To that end, the two representatives from the CFIA, Heather Brown and Edward Harrison, were extremely helpful and made themselves readily accessible between sessions. The facilitators used a “phased” approach in the meetings as follows:

Phase	Activity	Output
1 Define Success	System outcomes, challenges, principles	Shared principles statement
2 Mapping of Challenge	Mapping challenges	Priority Issues Matrix
3 Solutions Development	Possible solutions for priority issues	Catalogue of Options
4 Testing Solutions	Scenario Assumption tests, Risks	Refined Recommendations
5 Policy Translation	Operational solutions into advocacy recommendations	Draft AB Traceability Positioning Paper
6 Validation	Gaps, Communication Strategy...gauge support	Final Report

Phases one and two as above were covered at the July session with phases three to six completed in August.

Mandate

In the July sessions, the Group agreed that its working mandate was as follows:

Progress the cattle industry by evolving traceability

- To be effective and impactful (actually reduces risk of disease spread and compliance is accepted)
- Is practical & reflects reality (cost effective so has industry support and compliance with minimal slippage, does not impede commerce)
- Gains confidence of markets (customers), and respects producers' profitability and privacy

“ALBERTA CAN LEAD THE WAY WE JUST NEED TO TWEAK THE SYSTEM”

ABP Working Group & CCA Task Force

CCA's national Task Force is developing the national framework, industry policy position and advocacy roadmap, including the appropriate combination of regulatory and industry-led approaches.

The ABP Working Group is defining the performance, practicality, and producer-confidence conditions an enhanced system must satisfy to earn support in Alberta. Its work can provide a detailed implementation test and practical input into CCA's national process.

The two are complimentary, not competing.

What the two mandates reveal

Dimension	CCA Task Force	ABP Working Group
Core purpose	Develop a national framework and industry policy position	Define what an acceptable, workable traceability system must accomplish
Primary output	Framework, roadmap, policy, and advocacy recommendations	Practical solution principles and conditions for industry support
Starting premise	Traceability framework needs to be developed	Traceability should evolve, provided it delivers worthwhile outcomes
Primary audience	Industry organizations, governments, and regulators	Producers, the cattle value chain, and customers of Alberta beef
Level of operation	National strategic and policy level	Provincial, operational, and producer-reality level
Definition of success	Clear framework and coordinated policy direction	Effective disease control plus practical implementation and accepted compliance
Main safeguards	Balance regulatory requirements with industry-led approaches	Cost, commerce, producer profitability, privacy, and market confidence
Authority	Advisory only; decisions remain with industry and governments	Intended to inform what ABP and its partners can credibly support and advocate

Components of Traceability

“*TRUST, GOVERNANCE, DATA CONTROL AND PRIVACY ARE THE KEY PILLARS*”

3 Pillars of Livestock Traceability; Beef Cattle

1. **Premises Identification (PID)** – provinces/territories are responsible for PID
 - Alberta and other provinces have PID systems in place;
 - All premises shown in diagram require a PID number.
2. **Animal identification** – federally legislated & administered by national responsible administrator
 - System in place (CCIA for beef cattle)
 - Animal identification management by producer/ranch, feedlot includes;
 - Purchase tags (tag #'s are captured in CCIA account)
 - Apply tag before cattle leave farm of origin
 - Replace missing tags
 - Report retired tag #'s of dead cattle that had a tag
 - Cross reference tag #'s of replacement tags, if known
3. **Movement reporting** – is the gap
 - Currently described as a bookend approach
 - Tag # in CCIA account upon tag purchase; tag # retired in CCIA account
 - Alberta has addition of tag # read in for feedlot (>1000 head/year)

The Legs of Traceability

The analogy used for a foundational traceability system was a three-legged stool with each leg representing a fundamental aspect.



Which animal?

Where?

When and where did it move?

Without one of these “legs” being in place, the stool will collapse.



The larger the group, the larger the potential issue

The larger the area, the larger the potential issue

The lack of knowing “where to where & when,” the larger the issue.

Current Responsibilities

Regulators/Administrators

Organization	Primary role	Traceability responsibility
CFIA	Federal regulator and disease-response authority	Sets and enforces national animal identification and movement-reporting requirements; leads tracing and control during a disease outbreak.
CCIA	National identification and traceability-data administrator	Manages and distributes approved RFID tag numbers and operates the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), which records animal identification and movement data.
LIS	Alberta livestock inspection and movement-documentation authority	Administers livestock manifests, brand registration, and inspections in Alberta; supplies ownership and movement records that support trace-back investigations.

In brief: CFIA regulates and responds; CCIA identifies and records; LIS verifies ownership and movement in Alberta.

Value Chain Responsibilities

A- Cow-calf producer

- Tag before leaving farm of origin
- Maintain PID
- Complete manifest
- Generally, do not read/report individual outgoing RFID tags

B- Auction market

- Maintain PID
- Receives/handles manifest
- LIS/brand inspection processes
- Ensure cattle cannot be sold without required RFID
- Maintains substantial transaction information
- Does not generally have to report each animal's arrival/departure (as a complete CLTS movement event)

C- Feedlot

- Maintain PID
- Receives manifest
- Individual RFID reading/reporting more important (under existing Alberta move-in requirements)

Cattle Movement Document Types

LIS Manifest

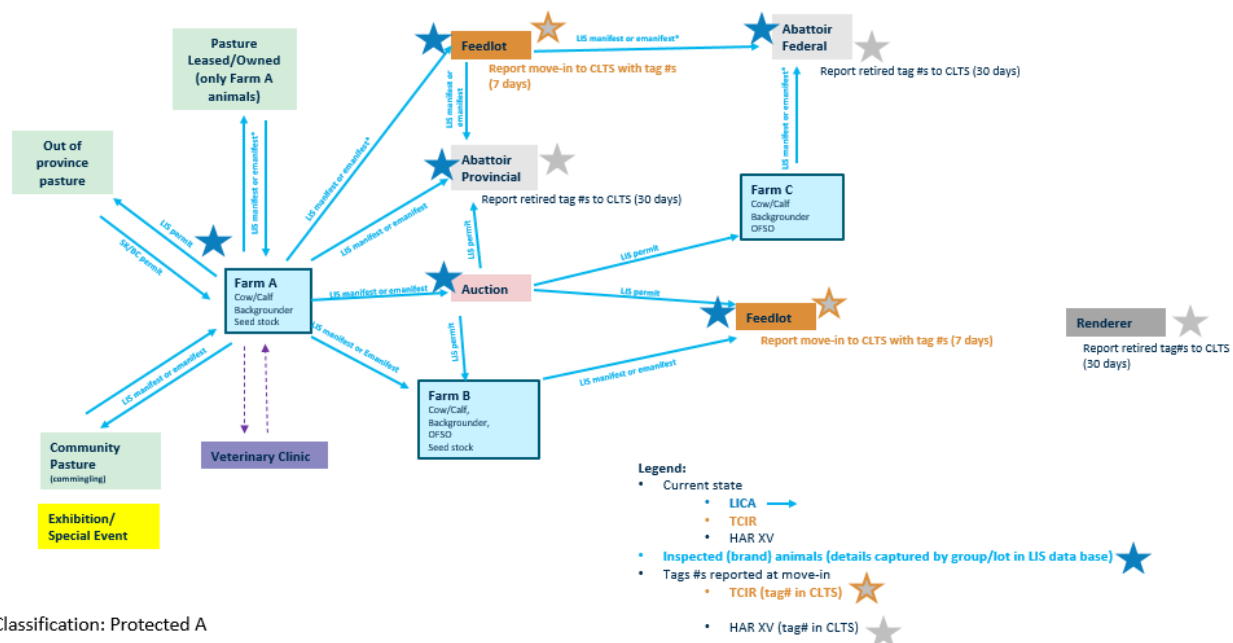
- Paper (5 copies, 4 by carbon, diff colors), or e-manifest (requires printing 4 copies)
- Paper complete & collected if going to inspected site (auction, feedlot etc.)
- Paper completed but not collected if to pasture, cattle show, private sale
- e-manifest would have a record of this movement collected

LIS Permit (A Form)

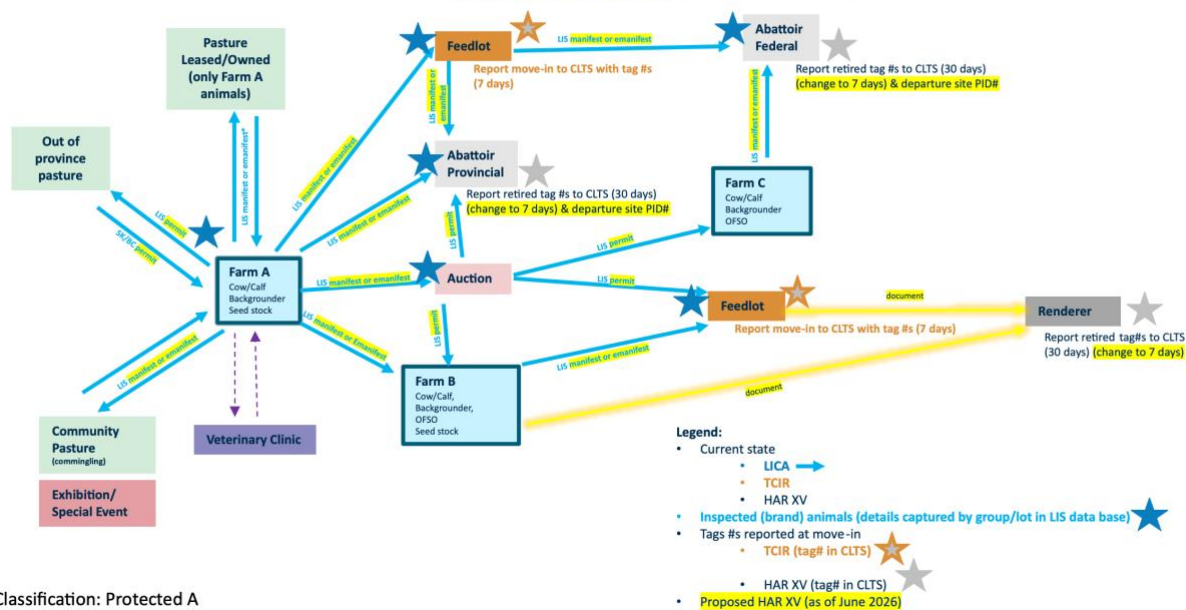
- Paper or computer generated
- Similar info/layout as manifest
- LIS inspector generates after inspection
- To transport from inspected site (or cross provincial border)
- Confirms animal has been inspected
- Special (~ annual manifest for set of animals going to multiple shows/events)

Current Reality

Alberta Cattle Movements – Overview with various examples at current state



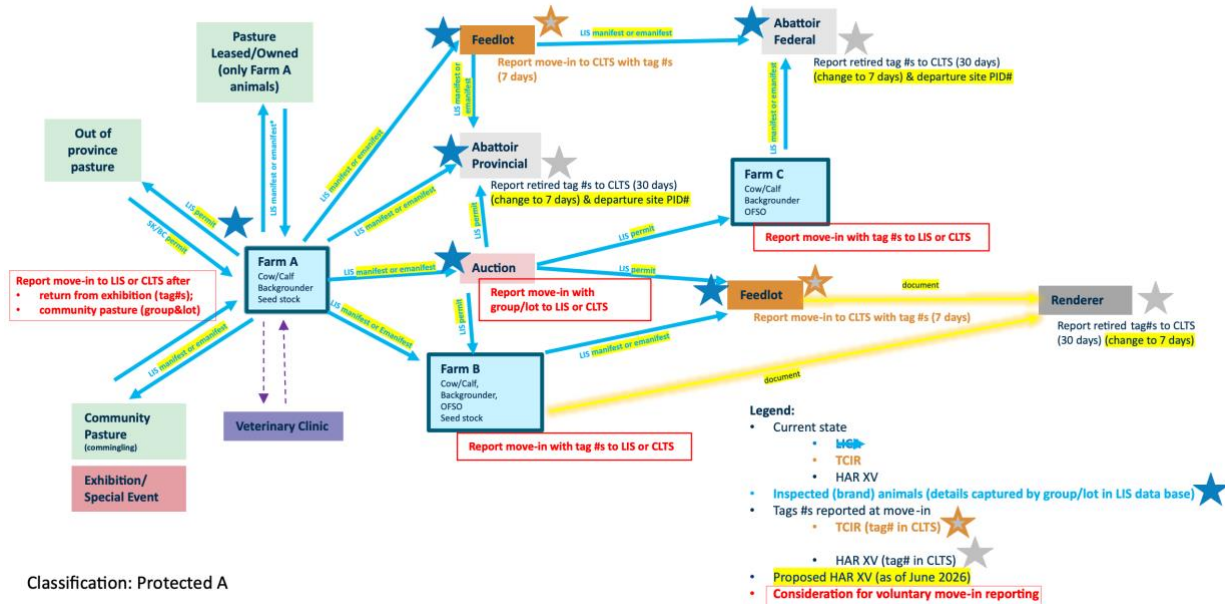
Alberta Cattle Movements – Overview with various examples at current state and proposed HAR XV (as of June 2026)



Classification: Protected A

Apart from the 7-day reporting obligations on feedlots, abattoirs, and renderers nothing has changed that impacts cow-calf producers.

Alberta Cattle Movements – Overview with various examples at current state, proposed HAR XV and considerations for voluntary move-in reporting (where the gaps are)



Classification: Protected A

Risks to Industry

The CFIA's response to the 2024 bovine-tuberculosis case illustrates the operational consequences of gaps in livestock-movement information. According to numbers reported during CFIA's investigation 4,732 animals had left the index premises between September 1, 2019, and December 31, 2024. Tracing identified 3,239 animals associated with 37 primary trace-out premises and another 689 associated with 90 secondary premises. A further 620 animals had been exported; seven were awaiting information and 177, approximately 3.7% of the total, remained untraceable.

The percentage of untraceable animals understates the potential risk. Each unresolved animal creates uncertainty about where it travelled, which animals it contacted and whether it entered another breeding or feeding herd. That uncertainty can expand the number of premises requiring investigation, testing, or movement restrictions.

One example presented by CFIA's Dr. Heather Brown demonstrated the practical difficulty of reconstructing movements from paper and incomplete records. CFIA attempted to trace nine heifers that had passed through an auction and several subsequent transactions. The exercise required approximately 25 to 30 staff hours, extended over more than 60 calendar days, and located only two animals in a breeding herd and confirmed two others as slaughtered. Five of the nine animals remained untraceable.

CFIA characterized the resulting risks directly: significant tracing time increases the risk of ongoing disease spread; inadequate records reduce confidence in both the data and the tracing results; and repeated requests for paper records create frustration for producers and inspectors.

Brown described Canada's existing system as a "bookend model," in which an animal is identified at its farm of origin and recorded again at slaughter, but its intermediate movements may not be consistently available. As she explained, "we don't have that stuff in between," limiting CFIA's ability to demonstrate that a disease has been contained.

These shortcomings are consequential even for a comparatively slow-moving disease such as bovine TB. In an outbreak of a fast-moving disease such as foot-and-mouth disease, similar delays could make it much more difficult to establish a containment zone, protect unaffected regions, and provide trading partners with the evidence required to resume trade.

“ BEING INCIDENT READY AND AUDIT VALIDATED ”

Value of Enhancement

A highly contagious disease such as (FMD) would be more serious than Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) because it could spread rapidly among cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and other cloven-hoofed animals. Current Canadian industry estimates place the potential economic impact of an FMD outbreak at between 22.6 billion and 75.8 billion, depending on the scale, spread, and duration of the disruption.

Canada's exposure to a foreign animal disease is not limited to the animals that become infected. Because approximately 59% of Canadian beef and cattle production is exported, the much greater economic risk is the loss of international market access. If authorities cannot rapidly identify the source of an infection, trace potentially exposed animals and demonstrate the boundaries of the outbreak, trading partners may treat all of Canada as affected. This would prevent Canada from isolating the disease geographically and seeking the early reopening of markets for disease-free regions. The resulting border closure would strand healthy cattle, overwhelm domestic processing and consumption capacity, depress producer prices throughout the value chain, and potentially create costs measured in tens of billions of dollars. Effective traceability

therefore functions not simply as a disease-control mechanism, but as market-access and industry-wide economic-risk infrastructure.

To enhance the traceability system and reduce risk requires a “what's in it for me” dynamic across the value chain. For example:

Stakeholder Incentives for Effective Animal Traceability

Each participant has a different reason to support a timely, accurate traceability system.

Stakeholder	Primary Incentive
Producer	Minimize cost and paperwork
Processor	Maintain export access
Government	Reduce outbreak risk
Retailer	Consumer confidence
Export customer	Proof of origin
Veterinary	Animal health

Cow-Calf Producer Benefits Qualified

Potential Benefit		Practical value to cow-calf producer	Smaller operator?	Comments
1	Reduced impact if a disease outbreak occurs	High, but infrequent/insurance-like	Yes	Faster proof that herd was or wasn't connected to an infected herd could potentially shorten investigation/quarantine and reduce unnecessary restrictions.
2	Protect Canada's ability to keep cattle/beef moving	High collectively; indirect individually	Yes	Avoiding or reducing market disruption ultimately protects cattle values, although a producer won't see a separate “traceability premium”.
3	Less paperwork/duplicate reporting if traceability is automated properly	Potentially high and everyday	Yes	Particularly compelling if better traceability means <i>less</i> work: manifest once, data automatically reused elsewhere.
4	Better herd/inventory records	Moderate – high for users	Variable	RFID can support inventory, culling, breeding, treatment and performance records. But only if the producer actually wants individual-animal data.
5	Better emergency response	Moderate	Yes	PID/location and animal information can help with wildfire, flood, evacuation and other emergencies; CFIA identifies natural-disaster response as a traceability benefit.
6	Carcass/performance feedback	Potentially valuable but probably overstated	Often Low	Useful to some progressive/commercial or seedstock operators; much less likely to motivate a small producer selling calves manually.
7	Verified health/preconditioning information	Potential value	Variable	Could support differentiated sales, but only if buyers trust the information and actually pay for it.

8	Source/age/production verification	Market-dependent	Variable	Valuable when a particular buyer/program requires it.
9	Generic improvement	Potentially high for sophisticated users	Usually Low	Trace individual offspring performance back to dams/sires and make better breeding/culling decisions.
10	Premium/value-added markets	Potential, not guaranteed	Variable	Traceability can enable verification, but traceability itself doesn't guarantee a premium.

There was no particular “return on investment” modelled during the Working Group sessions but rather the voluntary producer led initiative of “closing the gaps” in reporting and desired investment in technology was positioned as an “insurance policy” that no one wants to see redeemed.

Role of Technology

“*WHAT WILL PEOPLE BUY INTO?*”

The workshops did not conclude that Canada needs to wait for futuristic tags.

Priority should be given to making existing low-frequency RFID infrastructure work better through:

- improved readers;
- panel readers;
- mobile phone-linked readers;
- offline capability;
- automatic uploads;
- API integration;
- improved tag retention.

Newer technologies such as UHF may continue to be researched and piloted, but they should not hold up practical near-term improvements.

Alberta-Canadian Process Comparison

Alberta has infrastructure other provinces may not have:

- LIS;
- manifests;
- brand inspection;
- permits;
- feedlot reporting;
- established auction-market processes.

There is little benefit in waiting until every province develops identical infrastructure. But whatever Alberta develops, should be able to provide the required amount of data to the national traceability system (CCIA/CLTS).

A complete comparison of provincial traceability and systems regulations in place (according to online research) can be found in the Appendix.

Working Groups Themes and Directions

Analysis of the transcripts of both the July and August sessions produced the following insights as to what actions the Group supported in the majority.

- (1) Strengthen movement traceability first
- (2) Make Alberta's manifest/e-manifest the principal data movement conduit
- (3) Capture information once and reuse it
- (4) Improve adherence to existing requirements
- (5) Allow individual animal data to be added to the e-manifest but do not request every movement to be handled identically
- (6) Establish trusted third-party assistance/reporting
CCIA already permits authorized third-party service providers to submit traceability information on behalf of a producer, and the national material identifies this specifically as useful for operations with limited internet/computer capability or those preferring a trusted partner
- (7) Use a phased, voluntary enhancement period

“

TAKE CARE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS FIRST THEN EVERYTHING ELSE WILL FALL INTO PLACE

”

A sensible sequence emerging from the discussion is:

Phase 1 - Do today's requirements better

- correct/increase PID information on manifests;
- improve completion of existing manifests;
- improve awareness of current responsibilities;
- promote e-manifest uptake.

Phase 2 - Voluntary enhanced movement reporting

- allow producers to attach RFID numbers to e-manifests;
- enable voluntary move-in/move-out reporting;
- automate transmission where possible;
- pilot high-volume capture points.

Phase 3 - Normalize successful practices

- if pilots prove useful, affordable, and workable, make enhanced electronic movement reporting normal industry practice;
- Only then determine what, if anything, requires future regulatory support.

Make producer communication, education, and hands-on assistance an implementation project-not a communications afterthought

The workshops consistently found that many apparent objections combine:

- genuine opposition;
- misinformation;
- confusion between proposed and current rules;
- lack of understanding of PID/manifest responsibilities;
- poor understanding of why movement information matters;
- lack of practical support.

Participants were quite emphatic that the best system in the world fails if producers do not participate. The recommended approach should therefore include:

- simple common talking points;
- trusted producer messengers;

- ABP delegates;
- auction-market staff;
- producer organizations;
- LIS;
- CCIA;
- veterinarians;
- face-to-face meetings;
- hands-on assistance with PID/e-manifest;
- myth/fact resources;
- practical demonstrations.

Importantly, the discussion said this should not be left solely to ABP. Each cattle organization needs to carry the message to its own membership.

The message also needs to be simple. Participants explicitly warned against communications that try to explain five programs and organizations at once.

Statements to the ABP Board

Key Findings of the Working Group

- A better understanding and awareness of current regulations and realities
- Recognition that the current system is inadequate for foreign animal disease (i.e. FMD) response
- Gaps include movement reporting
- Filling of gaps must be industry led not government mandated; accomplished through volunteer participation; require the use of and improvement of existing tools and systems

The Group agreed on issuing the following recommendation to the Board of the Alberta Beef Producers:

To have a traceability program that closes the gaps in the traceability system:

Gaps:

1. Adherence to current regs and best practice
2. Movement data to support tracing back/forward

Why - necessary for future anticipated foreign animal disease

Path to get there:

- Communication and assisting producers in using the already existing tools (e.g. manifest, CLTS dbase).
- Voluntary program to allow for movement reporting to become standard procedure (best practice) so if future regulations come in it will be a seamless transition for those that have already chosen to participate.
- To enhance disease response, protecting market access and maintaining consumer confidence.

Maintaining Momentum

“ WE DON’T WANT TO BE BACK HERE AGAIN IN FIVE YEARS ”

Horizon	Recommended Emphasis
Quick Wins (now to ~2 years)	Producer education; improve current compliance/adherence; PID/manifest completion; aggressively promote e-manifest; define minimum national data set; LIS–CCIA technical work; trusted third-party support.
Pilot/Built (~1-3 years)	RFID attachment to e-manifest; automatic LIS to CLTS transfer; auction/LIS reader pilots; mobile readers; voluntary move-in/out reporting; test centralized/federated/hybrid data models.
Scale (~3-5+ years)	Expand proven workflows; automate system-to-system data exchange; normalize movement reporting; address gaps such as community pasture/direct sale pathways; determine whether policy/regulatory changes are still necessary

Suggested Action Steps

1. Communication Plan – Facts on current state versus perception
2. Volunteer compliance initiatives, pilots to test programs. Ready for Jan 1, 2027, e.g. reporting in/out
3. Program to assist producers to improve compliance – FMC is coming, just question of when
4. Advocate to GOA (SCAP) for funding for advanced technology

RACI points 1-4:

- Responsible – AB Orgs
 - Accountable – ABP
 - Communicated to – Producers
 - Inform – Delegate/CFIA, CCIA, other relevant producer groups (Lamb, Bison etc.)
5. Producer Data Sharing (LIS to CLTS). Develop permission protocol
 - A- LIS
 - R- CCIA
 - C- ABP working group
 - I - producers

“ GOVERNANCE BEFORE GOVERNMENT ”

The facilitators recommend that subject to ABP Board approval, this Working Group reconvene in one year’s time to examine progress made in “quick wins” and the building of “pilots”.

Credits/Material References

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their engagement before during and following the Working Group sessions to inform this report.

CFIA - Dr. Heather Brown and Edward Harrison
CCIA - Ashley Scott
GOA - Jennifer Hannesson and Steven Malowany
LIS - Shawn McLean
CanFax - Brenna Grant
AB Auction Marts - Patrick Cassidy
Holly Nicoll Photography



Appendix

Pre-Work

Pre-Work Questionnaire-August Session

1. How much has your understanding and feelings toward traceability changed?
2. What most surprised you from the dialogue at last month's sessions?
3. What changes should address the best future state given the working group's mandate?
4. What is the reaction from your org or other producers to the July briefing?
5. What do you now see as priorities?

Pework Responses August Session



Strongest areas of alignment

- Keep reporting simple, practical and proportionate.
- Correct misinformation and explain roles and rationale.
- Build on LIS and other existing processes/technology.
- Secure producer and sector buy-in before relying on enforcement.
- Share responsibility across value-chain participants.
- Continue dialogue with respectful, factual language.

Key Tensions to resolve

- No additional requirements vs. conditional enhancement.
- CFIA/national-system role vs. Alberta/industry leadership.
- National consistency first vs. Alberta pilots/early movement.
- Voluntary transition vs. eventual mandatory compliance.
- Centralized vs. Alberta/sector-held data.
- Individual-animal movement vs. auction-market group movement.

Pework Responses

Continuum Snapshot of Written Responses (qualitative)
12 replies = 71%



1. Appetite for enhanced traceability						
No further expansion	1	2	3	4	5	Ready to advance
	3		7, 10	4, 6, 8, 9, 11	1, 2, 5	
2. Preferred leadership / governance						
Federal / national role	1	2	3	4	5	Alberta / industry role
	1	7	2, 8	6, 10, 11	3, 4, 5	
3. Sequencing						
National alignment first	1	2	3	4	5	Alberta can pilot / move now
	7	1	6, 10, 11	2, 4, 9	5, 8	
4. Near-term emphasis						
Trust, facts and alignment first	1	2	3	4	5	Build / implement reporting first
	1, 3, 6, 11	4, 7, 9	2	5, 8	10	

Inter Provincial Traceability

Traceability Landscape varies by Province					
Province/region	Individual animal ID	PID	Routine movement information	Provincial infrastructure / distinguishing capability	Overall characterization
Quebec	Very strong; enhanced provincial requirements, including double identification	Strong	Individual movement reporting already established	Attestra / SimpliTRACE, provincial administrator and database; provincial regulations exceed the federal baseline	Most complete integrated traceability system
Alberta	National RFID + additional feedlot requirements	Strong provincial PID	Very strong group/lot movement information, plus individual feedlot move-ins	LIS, mandatory manifests, e-manifests, brand inspection, A permits, auction/ownership data, feedlot reporting.	Richest Western movement/commerce infrastructure, but information isn't fully integrated at individual-animal level
Saskatchewan	National RFID	PID system	Significant group movement/ownership information	Livestock inspection/brand system and permits; historically Livestock Services Saskatchewan	Strong Western inspection/commerce infrastructure, less individual electronic movement tracking than Quebec
British Columbia	National RFID	PID system	Some group movement/ownership information	Livestock/ownership inspection system, particularly important in cattle regions	Some Western-style inspection infrastructure but less comprehensive than AB
Manitoba	National RFID	PID	Limited systematic provincial cattle-movement capture	Some movement documentation and specific program/pasture data, but no AB-style LIS system	Greater reliance on national system
Ontario	National RFID	PID	Limited province-wide individual cattle movement reporting	No equivalent of Alberta's comprehensive LIS/manifest/brand-inspection infrastructure	Primarily national framework plus sector/commercial records
Atlantic provinces	National RFID	PID systems	Generally limited systematic provincial cattle-movement capture	Smaller cattle sector; largely federal/national framework plus local commercial records	Primarily national framework

