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**November 2020**

## **Livestock Traceability**

The new DairyTrace, the national cattle traceability system for dairy, launched this month and although it will not become mandatory until September 2021, there's no better time to start familiarizing yourself with the process since it takes time to develop the good habits you'll need once it does become mandatory.



### **What reporting methods are available?**

There are now multiple ways of reporting including both phone and internet options.

Internet Portal: [www.DairyTrace.ca](http://www.DairyTrace.ca)

DairyTrace Customer Service: 1-866-55-TRACE (1-866-558-7223)

### **What information do you need to report?**

The three categories of animals you **must** report are:

- Births
- Arrivals (new animals and those returning from temporary absences eg. shows)
- Deaths (On-Farm Disposal only, NOT those picked up by Atwood Resources)

It is not mandatory to report departures of live animals or deadstock (ie. Atwood Resources pickups) because those movements are recorded on arrival at the end of the trip.

The detailed information you will need to collect before you get on the phone or log onto the computer is as follows:

- 15-digit animal ID number on the ear tag
- Date (birth/move-in/death)
- Premises ID (PID) of both the arrival and departure points, and the license plate of a transport vehicle

Remember to request the departure Premises ID from the seller when arranging purchases and if you are taking animals to shows then you will need the show's Premises ID to report the animal's arrival back to your farm.

Ideally you can set yourself a goal to develop the habit to record and report traceability events on the same day they occur to avoid missing any events or deadlines. If that isn't practical, set yourself a specific day of the week that you sit down to report the previous 7 days' events and then you won't miss the mandatory 7-day reporting window.



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### Why are we doing this anyway?

The Traceability reporting is mandatory under the Proaction Traceability Requirements:

1. Have a Premises ID
2. Double-tag calves and record births within 7 days of birth and report within 45 days
3. Record and Report move-in animals within 7 days
4. Report retired tags within 7 days if using on-farm disposal or exporting

Beyond it just being a rule under Proaction, livestock traceability builds trust with consumers who have a desire to understand the path from Farm to Plate (or cup). Traceability databases allow rapid response to animal health emergencies to help stop disease spread faster and avoid large scale culling.

John Thaler DVM

### Biosecurity Testing Opportunity

Have you recently or are you planning on soon buying in new animals to your farm (dairy or beef)? There is currently an opportunity to have free testing done to help manage the risk of introducing new and emerging diseases to your herd. The free program by the Ontario Animal Health Network covers the cost of lab testing for 4 diseases:



**Anaplasmosis** - An infectious bacterial disease that infects cattle red blood cells causing anemia. Recovered animals can become carriers of the disease.

**Bovine Leukosis** - A viral disease in cattle that causes reduced milk production and cancer in a portion of infected animals.

**Johnes (MAP)** - A contagious, progressive bacterial infection of the digestive tract causing diarrhea and weight-loss. Infected animals can shed the bacteria in their feces with no other signs of infection.

**Salmonella Dublin** - A multi-drug resistant bacterial disease that causes severe outbreaks of pneumonia and septicemia with high mortality in calves. Recovered animals can shed the bacteria in feces. People can also become infected from contact with infected animals or consuming infected food products.

To be eligible, cattle must be at least 2 years of age and purchased within the previous 365 days. A maximum of 10 animals can be submitted from each herd.

If you are interested in this opportunity to test cattle that you have bought recently or any you are planning to buy soon, please talk with your Herd Veterinarian or call the clinic to arrange sample collection (519) 291-2060.



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## **Annual Fall Beef Meeting**

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Unfortunately, due to the current precautions on group gatherings, we will not be holding our beef meeting this fall. We look forward to our next opportunity to host this meeting.

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## **Veterinary Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Much has changed with the alarming presence of the COVID-19 virus in Ontario. During this time, it is important that we maintain a safe food supply. Our veterinarians will continue to play a role in animal health, welfare, and food safety. At the time of this writing, we are still providing herd health and emergency service. In response to the pandemic, our clinic is taking many precautions to ensure everyone's safety. We care very much about the health and wellbeing of our clients, staff, families and community. Below are some of the changes we have implemented. Please be aware that as this pandemic develops, we may have to adjust our procedures in response.

### **Veterinary farm visits**

- Once on farm, we try to maintain a distance from people of at least six feet wherever practically possible
- Care will be taken to wash and disinfect hands and contacted tools and equipment before re-entering our vehicle

### **Technician farm visits**

- Techs will continue to assist veterinarians as necessary. The same precautions as above will apply
- Technicians will continue to provide services, such as dehorning, but we ask that no farm personnel are in the immediate vicinity during their visit

### **Clinic procedures**

- Our clinic will remain open, but business hours may be subject to change
- Clients will be met at the door by one of our customer care representatives
- Purchases will be set out at the door
- Laboratory samples will be received at the door

We thank you for assistance in helping us continue to provide veterinary care while considering the health of yourselves and our staff.

Stay healthy!

