# Frequently Asked Questions

## Qualifying Cattle Requirements & steps to participating in CRSB Certified supply chains

CRSB Certified is a full value-chain program that enables sustainable sourcing and provides credible assurances for the production, processing and sourcing of beef through certified supply chains in Canada.

The CRSB Certified program's sourcing and Product-related Claims in the marketplace require that cattle must move through CRSB Certified Operations from birth up to and including the primary processor.

To facilitate a value-chain program, a Chain of Custody (traceability) system is required. As of October 2023, the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) is the approved live-cattle chain of custody verifier for beef cattle in Canada, excluding Quebec.

There are four important steps to giving cattle a chance to qualify through a CRSB Certified supply chain.

1. Become CRSB Certified and/or maintain CRSB certification
2. Consent to sharing information with CCIA for the purposes of CRSB Chain of Custody
3. Submit birth dates to the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS)
4. Submit move-in events to the CLTS when cattle move to a new operation

## Section 1: Sharing information with CCIA

### Why do I need to share information with CCIA for the CRSB Certified program?

For cattle to be traced through CRSB Certified supply chains, information is needed for Chain of Custody purposes.

Your personal information, collected during the CRSB Certified audit process, requires your informed (written) consent to be accessed or shared by CRSB Certified or CCIA.

Consent is provided through written permission via the Certification Body that carries out your certification.

Information shared with CCIA for CRSB Certified Chain of Custody purposes includes:

- name (contact and operation)
- email
- mailing address
- CLTS account ID
- certificate number
- certification date
- certification status change / de-certification date
- audit type

### How do I check if I have shared information with CCIA?

If you have provided written consent, your contact information will appear under the "CRSB Client Information" section of your CCIA Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) account.

This section will only appear in your CLTS account if you have already provided consent.

To add or change consent permissions, contact your Certification Body; changes to permissions cannot be made within the CLTS. The Certification Body will notify the CCIA of changes.

For any producer CRSB Certified by **Verified Beef Production Plus**:

- Written consent to share information is collected during the Audit Application and Agreement process, prior to on-farm certification.
- Annual updates also include an opportunity to confirm this consent, if they haven't already done so.

  Permission can be changed at any time by contacting VBP+ either by phone (587-328-5980) or email: info@verifiedbeef.ca.

For feedlots CRSB Certified by **Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance**:

- Written consent to share information and to publish their feedlot/operation/business name on the Ontario Corn Fed Beef website is provided during the sign-up process to become a OCFB QA CRSB certified feedlot.
- Permission can be changed at any time by contacting Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance program either by phone (519-686-6226) or via email: info@ontariocornfedbeef.com.

## Section two: Submitting Birth dates

### Why do I need to submit birth dates to the CLTS?

The CRSB Certified program requires that cattle must move through CRSB Certified Operations from birth up to and including the primary processors to qualify for a CRSB Claim. These requirements enable CRSB Claims used in-market by program licensees (i.e. retailers and restaurants).

Birth dates provide a starting datapoint for each animal in a supply chain from which to trace that animal's conformance to the CRSB Certified program requirements.

### How do I submit birth dates to the CLTS?

Submitting a birth date, also known as age verification, means applying birth date information to an approved CCIA tag/indicator number.

Birth dates for animals born on your premises must be submitted to the CLTS database either directly online, via spreadsheet using a template, via CLTS MOBO mobile app, or by web services through third-party management software.

Only the herd of origin can submit a birth date on a tag/indicator and the animal must have been born on your premises within 6 months of CRSB certification to qualify.

Learn more here: https://support.canadaid.ca/clts/submit-events/animal-events/birth-date/

## Is there a deadline or cutoff time for submitting birth dates?

Birth dates should be submitted as soon as possible once an animal is tagged. Program traceability, and the CRSB Certified Status search feature, is only as effective as the data available to it.

Birth dates must be submitted to the CLTS before January 15 or July 15, for animals harvested within the previous 6-month period, to be accepted by the system and applied towards CRSB Certified qualification status.

Birth dates are no longer applied towards an animal's CRSB Certified qualifying cattle status once the animal has been harvested and its tag/indicator is retired.

## Who do I contact if I have questions or need help submitting birth dates?

You can contact the Client Support Team at CCIA for assistance with submitting data at 1-877-909-2333 or info@canadaid.ca.

## Can my cattle still qualify if they lose an ear tag/indicator linked to a birth date?

Possibly.

If an ear tag/indicator is lost, a cross-reference event submitted to the CLTS can link the historical birth date information with the new tag/indicator number and retain CRSB Certified qualification status.

Where the lost tag/indicator number is **KNOWN**:

Submit a cross-reference event to connect the newly applied tag/indicator number to the lost tag/indicator number.

https://support.canadaid.ca/clts/submit-events/animal-events/cross-reference/

Where the lost tag/indicator number is **NOT KNOWN:**

- **Scenario 1:** If an animal loses a tag/indicator at the primary producer level and the tag/indicator number is not known, a new tag/indicator should be applied, and the birth date must be submitted to the CLTS on the new tag/indicator.
- **Scenario 2:** If an animal at the secondary producer or feedlot level loses a tag/indicator and the old tag/indicator number is not known to submit a cross-reference, that animal will no longer be eligible to qualify for the CRSB Certified supply chain.

## Section 3: Submitting cattle move-ins

### Why do I need to move-in cattle?

A move-in event shows that an animal has been moved to a new operation/premises as it moves through the supply chain.

Move-ins provide a datapoint from which to trace that animal's conformance to the CRSB Certified program requirements (that the animal was born and raised only CRSB Certified Operations, and processed in a CRSB Certified facility), for each stage in an animal's lifecycle in a supply chain.

### Who needs to submit move-ins?

Move-in events must be submitted to the CLTS each time eligible cattle move to a new operation.

Qualifying animals moved in from another CRSB Certified Operation within six months of your CRSB certification date are eligible.

### Do I need to submit move-ins if I retain ownership, but cattle are custom fed by someone else?

The CRSB chain of custody system tracks cattle movement, not ownership. If cattle from a CRSB Certified producer are custom fed by a CRSB Certified custom feeder, with retained ownership, the animals must still be moved into the feeder operation. In this case, the cattle may still qualify for a CRSB Certified supply chain.

If moved from a CRSB Certified operation to a non-certified custom feeder, the animals will not qualify under the CRSB Certified supply chain, regardless of ownership.

### How do I submit move-in events in the CLTS?

A move in or move out event is submitted to the CLTS in the same way birth date information is, directly onto the website, through excel spreadsheets, via CLTS MOBO mobile app, or by web service through third-party management software.

Learn more here: https://support.canadaid.ca/clts/submit-events/animal-events/move-in/

### Who do I contact if I have questions or need help with move-ins?

You can contact the Client Support Team at CCIA for assistance with submitting data at 1-877-909-2333 or info@canadaid.ca.

## What if I am a combined operation, do I need to submit birth dates AND move-in cattle?

For **certification by VBP+,** audits are classified by levels 1, 2 or 3 defined as follows, with birth date and move-in requirements (when cattle move to a new operation) indicated by operation classification type:

<table>
<tr><th>VBP+ Audit Definition</th><th>Birth date submissions required?</th><th>Move-in submission required?</th></tr>
<tr><td>Level 1: Cow-calf</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>• Cow/Calf, Grasser/Stocker and Backgrounding lots who keep cattle for 4 months or less</td><td>✅</td><td>✅</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 2: Feedlot</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>• Backgrounding lots who keep cattle for 4 months or more and<br>• Finishing Feedyards</td><td></td><td>✅</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 3: Combined Operation</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">• Operations that combine Cow/Calf and Backgrounding lots who keep cattle for four months or more; and<br>• Cow/Calf through to Finishing Feedyards.</td><td colspan="2">For animals that never move off their initial CRSB Certified Operation with a combination (level 3) audit type:</td></tr>
<tr><td>✅</td><td>Optional</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">In the case of combination audit type, a CLTS account can submit a move-in (e.g. cow-calf to feedlot) where there is only one PID. When submitting a move-in event in the CLTS account, the source PID is optional; only the destination PID is required.</td></tr>
</table>

**For certification by OCFQA-CRSB,** all operations are required to submit move-ins, as OCFBQA-CRSB conducts only feedlot certifications.

## Is there a deadline or cutoff time for submitting move-in events?

Move-in events should be submitted as soon as possible once an animal has changed locations/premises. Program traceability, and the CRSB Certified Status search feature, is only as effective as the data available to it.

Move-in events must be submitted to the CLTS before January 15 or July 15, for animals harvested within the previous 6-month period to be accepted by the system and to be applied towards CRSB Certified qualification status.

Move-in events are no longer applied towards an animal's CRSB Certified qualifying cattle status once the animal has been harvested and its tag/indicator is retired.

### What if I am working with a herd management software or team – will the birth date and move-in information be automatically shared to CCIA?

It is the responsibility of the individual producer to confirm if their own management software is sharing information with CCIA, and to confirm successful submissions in your CLTS account.

If your service provider forwards the data successfully to the CLTS, it will be accounted for.

## Section 4: Program-related questions

### I have just been CRSB Certified. Are my cattle eligible for a CRSB Certified supply chain? What is the cutoff?

Animals born-on your operation within six months of your CRSB certification date are eligible.

For operations after the birth farm (eg. backgrounder, grasser/stocker, feedlot), qualifying animals moved in from another CRSB Certified Operation within six months of your CRSB certification date are eligible.

### How do I check if my cattle qualify?

To assist producers in tracking cattle that qualify through the supply chain, the CRSB worked with CCIA to implement a search function within the CLTS called "CRSB Certification Status". This tool enables searching by tag/indicator number to view the CRSB Certified status of an animal in real-time, at any time in its lifecycle. Learn more: https://support.canadaid.ca/clts/search/crsb-certification-status/

### What does "in scope for a CRSB Certified audit" mean?

Operations (cow-calf, backgrounding and feedlots) that serve as the residence for cattle at various stages are in-scope for a CRSB Certified audit to the CRSB Sustainable Beef Production Standard.

Operations that transitorily house cattle (auction yards, transportation/hauling, fairs) are not currently in scope for a CRSB Certified audit.

### What incentives are there for getting certified?

CRSB has partnered with its members to encourage certification and reward those who have made the investment. There are currently market-based and operation-based programs available.

Farm Credit Canada offers a Sustainability Incentive for any CRSB Certified operation that has eligible lending with FCC. Payments are calculated as a portion of your lending with FCC. You could receive one payment per year, up to a maximum of $2,000, and can reapply annually throughout the life of the program.

Since 2018, Cargill and its customers have supported a Qualifying Cattle Credits program - a per head credit provided to all producers in the supply chain for cattle that qualify for a CRSB Certified claim (i.e. travel through CRSB Certified Operations from birth, up to and including processing at a Cargill facility). This credit has paid in the range of $18-20/head of qualifying cattle.

Since 2023, Cargill and its customers also provided a Certification Recognition Credit to “fill the gap” for Canadian beef producers who have made the upfront investment of becoming CRSB Certified but did not receive at least $400 CAD in financial return for qualifying cattle processed the previous year as part of the Cargill Qualifying Cattle Credits program. This is being offered again in 2025.

### Are the incentives going to continue every year?

CRSB works closely with its partners to encourage continuity of incentives for producers. Current programs are renewed on an annual basis.

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## Who owns the chain of custody algorithm? Who can make changes?

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) is the owner of the CRSB Certified program and its requirements, including Chain of Custody. Any changes must be at the request and direction of CRSB.

## Is the system audited annually?

Yes. The [CCIA’s implementation of the] Chain of Custody system is audited annually.

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**Visit crsbcertified.ca to learn more.**

Email: info@crsbcertified.ca