CCIA
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CANADIAN CATTLE IDENTIFICATION AGENCY

AGE VERIFICATION 101

Age Verification is recognized as an important component of effective traceability systems. Producers can enter and store Birth Date information in the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database and have it readily available for domestic and export markets.

AGE VERIFICATION | MANDATORY

Age verification (AV) is not mandatory in Canada.

Alberta regulation that required AV of cattle was repealed in 2020. Even though AV is not mandatory regulated information, producers are encouraged to record this information in the CLTS database administered by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as part of building a world-class traceability system.

PREVENT | AGE VERIFICATION ISSUES

You can prevent AV issues by checking the animal's Birth Date prior to purchasing.

- CLTS users can see Birth Dates by RFID tag number.
- A note will appear on the Tag History and Birth Certificate indicating a birth date or a modification has made after the animal is 9 months of age.
- Ask to see the Birth Certificate prior to purchasing.

Any potential errors could be addressed with the seller at that time.

TWO | COMMON ERRORS

1. Producers apply a calving start date to a series of tags, but do not use all of them on the same calf crop. The leftovers are applied to animals born the following year, but the birth information is not updated.

2. The wrong year is used when inputting the Birth Dates or calving start date. This can only be undone by the herd of origin account holder.

REPORT | A BIRTH DATE

WHO? A Birth Date can only be entered by the herd of origin account holder where the tag was issued to, not by any subsequent custodian of the animal.

WHY? Age verification has a major impact on beef marketing inside and outside of Canada. Some niche programs may require that animals are age verified to qualify. Having the birth information associated with a tag streamlines the verification process for all segments of the production chain if required for market access.

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