

Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) Timeline: 1995-2012

- 1995** National identification started in 1995 when the need for the sheep industry to develop an effective traceback system was first recognized by the Livestock Identification Working Group (LIDWG). This group was created by the Canadian Animal Health Consultative Committee (CAHCC) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to represent the national identification interests of the livestock industry. The Working Group quickly recognized the need to first address the potential threat of BSE in the cattle, and scrapie in sheep.
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- 1996** In 1996, the concept of developing a national identification program was proposed to the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) in the form of a bar-code system. The CSF Board decided that this system would not work for the Canadian sheep industry and set out to look at other options that would be affordable, effective and flexible for producers.
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- 1998** Two years later, at its Annual General Meeting, the CSF Board endorsed the concept of a national identification system for the sheep industry. A technical committee was established to begin developing the program.
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- 2000** In 2000, the CSF received financial assistance from the federal government to initiate communication with producers. Information was published in journals and newsletters. During the summer and fall, extensive consultative meetings were held with industry stakeholders nationwide. The response indicated the sheep industry supported the development of a national identification program that would reflect its needs. Based on this response, the Board of Directors voted to develop and implement an identification system that was “affordable, flexible and effective” for the sheep industry.
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- 2001** In 2001, the CSF requested regulatory changes to the legislation governing mandatory identification.
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- 2002** In March 2002, a meeting was held in Winnipeg to draft amendments that incorporated the requirements of the sheep sector. The final changes to the legislation were reviewed and accepted by the current National Identification Committee of the CSF in March 2002.

2004 The regulatory amendment came into force on January 1, 2004.

2007 CSF supports, in principle, the idea of mandatory Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and initiates discussions with government and service providers to receive funding to start investigating RFID technology in the sheep industry.

2010 In June 2010, the CSF approved a motion to move the sheep industry towards mandatory RFID tags. This decision was given a great deal of consideration. The Board considered that an RFID system could possibly help sheep producers meet anticipated traceability requirements, but also give producers an opportunity to improve on-farm flock management in order to move the industry forward.

2011 As of October 2011, producers may no longer purchase non-RFID tags (pink Ketchum Kurl-Lock #3 and Allflex dangle tags) as official CSIP identifiers.

2012 Producers are encouraged to apply RFID tags to lambs born during 2012, however, sheep producers may use up their existing stocks of pink Ketchum Kurl-Lock tags until a future date is established when the tags will be revoked from the official CSIP list and no longer accepted at auctions or abattoirs.

The CSF continues to work with industry partners and the federal and provincial governments to implement a traceability program that works for Canadian producers.