

Growing Forward 2 Sheep RFID Technology Adoption Program

The Sheep RFID Technology Adoption Program (Program) provides sheep producers a grant on a cost-shared, reimbursement basis for RFID technology. The adoption of sheep RFID technology provides both flock management and traceability benefits.

Sheep RFID software has specific requirements. Software must be written specifically for sheep flock management using sheep-specific terminology, and must incorporate common sheep production practises (breeding groups, multiple births, fostering, etc.). To provide flock management benefit, software must be able to accurately collect, store and analyze specific sheep enterprise data (lambing percentage, weaning weight, days to market, etc.). To provide sheep traceability benefit, it must have the ability to track and store individual animal data, and to generate reports that provide an audit trail (shipping dates, sales locations, etc.).

i) Flock Management:

Data collection:

- Record birth and, if applicable, death information;
- Record breeding dates, sires and ewe groups;
- Identify every lamb's dam, sire, and siblings;
- Record sale and purchase details, slaughter data, and disposal information;
- Collect individual animal information – sex, breed, genetics or pedigree, weights, body condition score, health status and medical treatments, etc.

Reporting:

- Reports generated on lambing, weaning, death loss, growth rate, ewe productivity, sire fertility, health treatments including vaccinations, withdrawal periods, etc.;
- Provide flexibility for user – filters, sort options, date ranges, search functionality, data transfer, etc.;
- Enable comparisons between animals / across management groups / across years.

ii) Traceability:

Data collection:

- Unique animal identification:
 - Sheep are individually identified with an approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) radio frequency identification (RFID) tag;
 - Electronic identification (EID) number of the RFID tag must be read electronically and be tamper resistant (i.e. may not be manually typed in and may not be altered in the software);
 - Software must not allow duplicate or re-used numbers;
 - An audit trail is available for all replacement tags.
- Unique premises identification (currently optional):
 - Ability to store the Alberta Premises Identification (PID) number for the sheep operation.
- Sheep movement tracking (currently optional):
 - A sheep's movements (tracked by its RFID tag number) on and off the farm are recorded and reportable by origin and destination (by PID number);
 - Transport documents can be generated for off-farm animal movements;
 - Ability to include PID numbers for other farms, feedlots, auction markets and abattoirs.

Reporting:

- Generate animal tracking reports on deaths, movements, sales, slaughter, etc.;
- Provide flexibility for user – filters, sort options, date ranges, search functionality, etc.

Eligible Sheep RFID Software and RFID Readers as of April 1, 2013

Eligible RFID Software

The following is the current list of RFID software eligible under the Sheep RFID Technology Adoption Program. This current list is not exclusive. RFID software can be added if it meets the criteria listed on page 1 of this document. RFID software can also be removed if it no longer meets the flock management and traceability criteria.

If an Applicant or a RFID software vendor has an inquiry about a RFID software product not listed below, they can contact Myles Sosnowski at (780) 427-7708.

Any RFID software that is deemed eligible under the Program is done so “as is” without warranties or conditions of any kind either expressed or implied. To the fullest extent possible under applicable law, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) disclaims all warranties and conditions, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, implied warranties or conditions of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, non-infringement or other violation of rights. ARD does not warrant or make any other representations regarding the use, accuracy, timelines, applicability, performance, security, availability or reliability of the software on the list, or the results from the use of the software.

1. *FarmWorks* from Shearwell Data Limited
 - Erona Farms Ltd. (www.eronafarms.ca)
 - Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited (www.wool.ca)
2. *bioFlock* from BIO
 - www.biotrack.ca
 - Note: Reimbursement based on payment for one year only.
 - Note: Reimbursement does not include cost for data entry of records.
3. *Select Sheepware* from TGM Software Solutions Limited
 - www.tgmsoftware.com
 - Note: Reimbursement based on full purchase price – monthly subscription payment plan not eligible.
4. *TRAX-IT Livestock Sheep Manager* from Merit-Trax Technologies
 - www.merit-trax.com
5. *Ewe Byte* from Ewe Byte Sheep Management System
 - www.ewebyte.com

Eligible RFID Readers

- Only hand-held RFID readers are eligible under the Program.
- The RFID reader must be able to read CSIP-approved RFID tags.
- The RFID reader must be compatible with the RFID software (i. e. the RFID reader must be able to read and transfer the RFID tag information to the RFID software. The RFID software must be able to receive the RFID tag information from the RFID reader).

Ineligible Equipment

- Panel or stationary RFID readers are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Equipment such as drafting crates, weigh crates, electronic scales, load bars, and computers are not eligible under this program.