

Public Statement from the Western Stock Growers' Association on Proposed CFIA Traceability Regulations

We call on the CFIA to immediately halt further implementation until the legitimate concerns of producers are adequately met.

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The Western Stock Growers' Association (WSGA) believes in representing the concerns and views of our membership above all else. As the voice of our livestock producer members, we have actively engaged in discussions on traceability for many years.

In 2023, WSGA participated in the consultation on the proposed amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability), working alongside our provincial and federal organizations and associations. We provided detailed feedback, expressed significant concerns, and offered practical recommendations.

While we at WSGA recognize the critical importance of robust traceability in protecting the Canadian beef industry and grassroots producers from the catastrophic impacts of a potential disease outbreak, we **insist on a common-sense, scientific, and technology-driven approach**. Any new system must effectively serve the needs of the broader industry and our trading partners while **operating smoothly and efficiently for our members, with the paramount goal of safeguarding the health and safety of our livestock**.

Although Canada Gazette Part II publication of the final proposed regulations is anticipated in early 2026 (with implementation likely phased thereafter), we have heard directly from producers and members that their concerns and fears—as well as those of our Association—have not been fully addressed in the evolving proposals.

We strongly oppose the unnecessary and undue burden imposed by elements of the proposed regulations, including requirements that would escalate from effective batch manifest systems to mandatory individual animal tracking without allowing technology adequate time to catch up. Such measures, including **individual tag reading for premise-to-premise movements, would create excessive stress on animals, add significant operational complexity and expense**, and represent a heavy-handed, mandatory government approach that no longer reflects the realities or preferences of today's producers—despite foundational work done over 20 years ago.

We urge the CFIA to prioritize clear, direct communication and meaningful consultation with producers. For these reasons, WSGA calls on the CFIA to immediately halt further implementation of the new regulations until the legitimate concerns of producers, our members, and our organization are adequately met through collaborative, evidence-based adjustments.

WSGA remains committed to constructive dialogue and stands ready to work with the CFIA and industry partners to develop practical traceability solutions that enhance disease response without placing unsustainable burdens on Canadian livestock producers.

About WSGA:

Established in 1896, Western Stock Growers' Association is a beef producer organization driven by province-wide voluntary membership. WSGA's main priority is protection of the livestock producer and the rangelands they operate on through advocacy. WSGA encourages interaction within industry leaders that promotes education and helps define philosophical issues in agriculture.