



# Frequently Asked Questions

## New White Single Button Tag

### What are these tags for?

New with the launch of DairyTrace is the availability of a white single button RFID ear tag for dairy animals born outside the province of Québec. The white single button tag is allowable under proAction® requirements as an exception for identifying calves born on a dairy farm but are destined to leave the farm of origin at a young age for purposes other than dairy production.

### Why should you use the white single button tag in your dairy operation?

Tags are part of an effective traceability system, which better protects and supports industry market access, competitiveness, and consumer confidence. Dairy bovine tag numbers can easily be tracked in DairyTrace, which has the potential for value-added opportunities in the future, including traceback. While this new white single button tag is allowable for identifying calves leaving the dairy farm at a young age, the dairy industry standard across Canada is that dairy animals must be dual tagged to ensure an accurate and reliable traceability from birth to end of life.

### What is a dairy tag?

Federally, the Health of Animals Act governs livestock traceability activities in Canada. Approved indicators such as ear tags are part of traceability activities. RFID ear tags are allocated to ensure uniqueness of identification numbers based on species. In Canada, dairy bovine animals born outside the province of Québec have a tag range from 124 000 000 000 001 to 124 000 099 999 999 and the range from 124 000 120 000 000 to 124 000 139 999 999 is used for dairy animals born in Québec since March 2019. Other dairy animals born in Québec may have a tag number between 100 and 120 million.

### What is the difference between the single button tag and the dual ear tags?

The white single button tag for dairy is comprised of an HDX RFID button with a junior back panel. When ordering, there is an option to request a herd management number to appear on the back panel of the tag. The federal tag number range for white single button tags starts at 124 000 050 662 101, which distinguishes them from the range of the dual tag sets since animals with single button tags do not qualify for registration by the national dairy cattle breed associations.

### Do I have to stop using my yellow button tags and what tags should I be using?

Any calves born on farm and destined for purposes other than dairy production **may** be identified with a single RFID ear tag, except in provinces where double tagging is required. For our dairy cattle traceability system, the approved dairy tag (white) is preferred but the beef tag (yellow) remains an acceptable option. It is expected, however, that the allowable use of yellow button beef tags on dairy farms will be fully phased out by September 1, 2023.

### What happens if an animal loses a white single button tag?

If an animal loses a white single button tag, a new approved tag will need to be applied. Normally, another white dairy tag would be used from your current inventory as a replacement tag. This may be either another single button tag or a dual tag set. In the absence of any tag inventory, tags should be ordered from DairyTrace customer services. Given that any such replacement tag will have a different number than the lost identifier, the following reporting options are possible:

1. If the number of the lost tag is known, you must record both the new and old tag numbers as a Cross-Reference tagging event, which must be reported to DairyTrace under proAction requirements.
2. If the number of the lost tag is not known, then the event is considered a tag Replacement and the same recording and reporting is needed.

In any event, all tagging events must be recorded and reported to DairyTrace within seven (7) days.

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