

# Animal Tagging



*Tagging animals and reporting this traceability data to the national database is essential to a strong and responsive traceability system, which is critical to a swift and effective response to an animal health emergency.*

## WHITE BUTTON TAGS (NEW for 2021)

DairyTrace is a self-managed dairy industry program. Holstein Canada and Lactanet have introduced a white single-button RFID tag **for animals not destined for the dairy industry**. Tags are ordered from Holstein Canada or DairyTrace, along with your white dual NLID panel tags for heifers.

**Yellow button tags are being phased out of the national dairy industry.**

A white-button tag for bull calves or cross breeds not destined for the dairy industry will be a requirement for proAction starting in September 2023.

*Benefits of switching to the white button tag NOW!*

- 1-stop shopping, 1-stop reporting
- Slightly cheaper than yellow button and shipping is free!
- Dollars spent on these tags go directly back into the dairy industry
- Tag numbers auto-populate in some reporting systems

## REPLACING LOST TAGS

If an animal loses one or both panel tags, they should be replaced as soon as possible with the same unique number to ensure accurate and ongoing animal identification. NLID provides replacement tags with the same unique lifetime number **free of charge** when they are lost through normal wear and tear. **These tags must be activated in DairyTrace** (reported, much like a birth record) to confirm with DairyTrace that the animal is still present on your farm.

**Cross-referencing two tag numbers** is required if a lost or unreadable/broken tag must be replaced with another set of tags bearing a different number. This should only be required if the animal missing tags is to be shipped before a replacement set of tags would arrive, OR if a US import loses its US identification. Reporting should be done within 7 days of re-identifying or before the animal is shipped.

## US TAGS /IMPORTED CATTLE

Official US RFID ear tags (electronic button tag) with identification numbers beginning with "840" are considered equivalent to Canadian approved tags. Official US tags have a US shield logo and start with the number "840" which cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada.

DairyTrace Customer Service

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