

For Better Retention Ultraflex



THE ULTRAFLEX STORY

Available since March 2011 for Quebec cattle producers, and since May 2013 for dairy farmers throughout the rest of Canada, Ultraflex was created following the comments and suggestions compiled from Quebec farmers. During test on Quebec farms between 2009 and 2013, we observed better retention with Ultraflex tags.

WHY CHOOSE ULTRAFLEX?

The new plastic material, modified to be more supple and flexible, has shown greater durability for ear tags and better resistance to the wide temperature ranges of the Canadian climate. The rounded shape of the rear portion of the tag forms to the animal's ear, making it less likely that the identifier will catch on "tag traps" such as chains, feeders, baler twine, etc.

RESULTS FROM THE ATQ STUDY

Better retention of Ultraflex identifiers compared to identifiers previously supplied by ATQ:

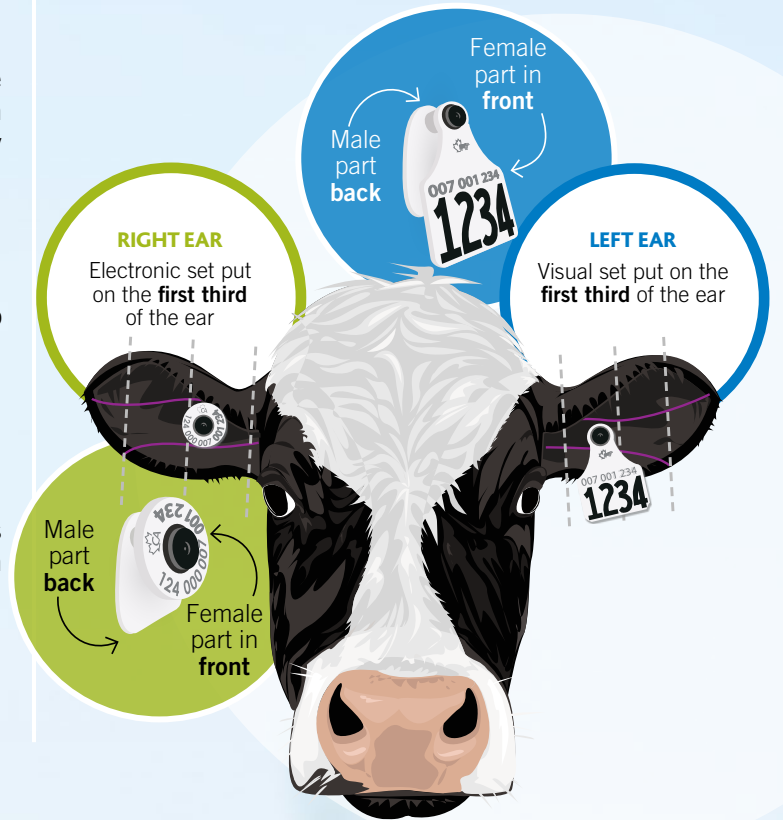
- **Less loss of and no breakage on the male part of the tag**
- **Less risk of catching on chains or other protrusions due to the shape of the tag**

The study showed that housing and attaching conditions are the two principal factors for the successful retention of identifiers.

SUCCESS FACTORS

POSITIONING THE IDENTIFIER

- The identifiers with black buttons (female part) must be positioned in front of the ear, where they are protected by the curvature of the ear
- Place the identifier between the two principal veins in the ear, in the first third of the ear next to the head
- For maximum retention, it is better to use a new hole when re-identifying an animal



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SUCCESS FACTORS

USE A GOOD APPLICATOR AND PIN

- Use the appropriate applicator recommended by the manufacturer
- Use the appropriate pin in the applicator and make sure it is in good condition
- Remember that the **GREEN** pin must be used for *Ultraflex* identifiers

HOUSING CONDITIONS

- Inspect facilities and look for areas where tags could potentially catch or rub
- Remove objects that stick out such as nails, metal plates, open ends of pipes, damaged feeders, baler twine - in short, all the “tag traps”

ORDER SMALLER QUANTITIES OF TAGS

- Organizing your orders on an annual basis will help to reduce your tag inventory
- Order less and more often to benefit from innovation in the making of identifiers

PROTECT TAGS FROM THE WEATHER

- Consider where you store your set of tags. Tags kept too long in a place where there are significant changes in temperature can become damaged.



Holstein Canada / NLID and ATQ are continually working with Allflex to produce reliable identifiers that respond to the needs of Canadian dairy farmers.

Animal identification is the foundation of the traceability system. Better identifier retention ensures optimal traceability throughout the animal's lifespan.



To order sets of tags or replacement tags

Quebec farmers should contact ATQ at 1 866 270-4319 or visit their website: www.atq.qc.ca/index.php/en

Elsewhere in Canada, farmers should contact NLID at 1 877 771-6543 or by email at nlidorder@holstein.ca



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