

# Animal Identification System in Latvia



## **Agricultural Data Centre**

*State institution under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture*

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Administration and maintenance of national livestock database

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## Main historical events

- 1895 – first pure-bred cattle registered in Baltic herd book
- 1970-1993 – SELEKS automated information processing system implemented and deployed (milk recording, veterinary)
- 1993-1998 – Cattle milk recording system moved to personal computers
- 1991 – Latvia joins ICAR
- 1998 – National animal identification and registration system created, in order to ensure compliance with all relevant European Union regulation, as well as ICAR guidelines
- 2009,2013 – Agricultural Data Centre has been granted with the ICAR Certificate of Quality in identification and performance recording fields (dairy and beef cattle, dairy sheep and goats)
- 2010 – According to the results of EU audit, Latvian bovine database is recognized as fully operational, cattle passports are no longer needed for national movements

## Government responsibilities (1)

- National livestock database (1998-....)
  - Individual animal identification (cattle – two eartags; sheep and goat – two visual eartags with one microchip; horses, pets - microchip)
  - Group level identification (pigs – eartag with holding ID)
  - Statistic questionnaires (poultry, bees, domesticated game animals, aquacultures, etc.)
- Register of animal movements and ownership (natural/legal person, place, dates)
- Animal holding register – on-spot checks, health status, movement and product trade prohibitions, etc. (Food and Veterinary Service – FVS)
- Production (laser printing, programming microchips) and direct distribution of animal eartags
- Electronic notification system for slaughterhouses and animal traders (2009)

## Government responsibilities (2)

- Veterinary risk assessment system (2004)
- Register of mandatory veterinary testing (2012)
- Register of animal foodstuff producers (2008)
- Milk register (certification of milk purchasers, EU milk quota administration, 2004-2015)
- Register of milk quality (2009)
- Animal performance recording system (beef and milk cattle, exterior evaluation, milk goats, sheep)
- Register of certificated sires, herd book, genetic resources, bull evaluation service (INTERBULL)
- Administration and supervision of service persons (zootechnicians, exterior evaluation experts, AI technicians, veterinarians, FVS inspectors, etc.)
- Recognition and certification of breeding organizations

## Particular features of animal identification system in Latvia

- Blank animal eartags are being supplied by two producers (Caisley since 1998 and Allflex since 2001), then printed and distributed directly to farmer
- Farmer can order eartags using various channels: by phone, over the internet, or using a paper form
- Farmers are able to submit all the required information using the free to use online web application
- Farmers also can browse and check all their registered data, including access to various reports, printouts, etc.
- Service persons, slaughterhouses, animal traders, milk purchasers can submit or browse the required information using the online access to livestock database, according to their credentials
- Every single part of national livestock identification system is being kept in a single computerized relational database, which allows for additional data cross-checking and vastly improves quality of registered information

## Possible future improvements of animal identification system

- Electronic data exchange and interoperability of animal databases
- Development of farm computer software and infrastructure
- Registration of notifications using online system only, reducing amount of paperwork
- Compulsory electronic identification of animals

Thank you for your attention!  
Questions?