



NEWS RELEASE

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**Audit identifies improvements needed in information
to locate farm animals in emergencies**

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s Premises ID program – designed to help animal health officials and emergency responders locate poultry and livestock during emergencies – lacked processes to ensure its information was reliable, according to a new report from the Office of the Auditor General.

B.C. poultry and livestock operations have seen increased threats in recent years from animal diseases, such as bird flu, and other emergencies such as wildfires and floods.

“The Premises ID program can provide key information about the types and number of animals under threat during emergencies, where they’re located, and who to contact at commercial farms, hobby farms, or any location where poultry and livestock are brought together,” said Sheila Dodds, Acting Auditor General. “But our audit found that the ministry lacked processes to make sure the information was accurate and up to date.”

Since July 1, 2022, people responsible for poultry and livestock have been required to enrol in the Premises ID program, either directly or through their producer organization. Not all poultry and livestock owners are registered in the program.

The audit found the ministry lacked the information needed to identify gaps in Premises ID registration and to target its efforts to increase program enrollment.

In addition, the ministry didn’t provide staff with adequate guidance outlining when, and with whom, Premises ID information could be shared. “Without adequate guidance, information could be shared when it’s not permitted or withheld when it should be given out,” Dodds said.

The ministry has accepted the audit’s seven recommendations for increasing program registration, addressing data reliability, and improving guidance to staff about sharing information.

Links

Ministry of Agriculture and Food: Reliability of Premises Identification Information:

<https://www.oag.bc.ca/ministry-of-agriculture-and-food-reliability-of-premises-identification-information-2/>

Report at a glance: <https://www.oag.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/963/2025/11/OAGBC-202511-PID-AAG.pdf>



Office of the
Auditor General
of British Columbia

Acting Auditor General's summary (video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epp6VDub6Xo>

Photo files

High-resolution images of Acting Auditor General Sheila Dodds:

<https://www.oag.bc.ca/sheila-dodds>

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