

# CALVING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## DAIRY AND BEEF FARMERS

Registering your calves once you've tagged them helps build lifetime animal traceability and supports disease management.

### WHY DO I NEED TO TAG AND REGISTER CALVES?

Dairy farmers and beef breeders play a critical role towards building lifetime animal traceability- it starts with new-born animals on-farm. If you don't register your calves after tagging them, this compromises our ability to trace animals back to the location they were born at. If important animal information such as date and location of birth cannot be properly verified, this has implications in the event of a livestock disease response.

### WHAT IS LIFETIME ANIMAL TRACEABILITY?

If an animal has lifetime traceability, we can trace the animal from birth to death, know where it was and who was in charge at any point in time.

### WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER MY CALVES?

All calves must be tagged and registered in the NAIT online system before they are 180 days old (about 6 months) or before their first off farm movement, whichever comes first.

Register your calves within 7 days of tagging them or before they move off farm, whichever comes first.



### HOW DO I REGISTER MY CALVES?

Register your calves in the NAIT online system against your NAIT number. Log into the NAIT system, select "Register Animals" from your homepage and follow the steps.

### WHAT IF I USE ANOTHER SYSTEM OR MOBILE-APP?

If you use an information provider or third-party application such as scanner

software; LIC (MINDA), CRV Ambreed or Farm IQ to register your calves – you need to ensure the registration has also been transferred into your NAIT account before the animal moves off-farm.

Your NAIT account can be set up to send you an email notification when animals have been successfully registered to your account, or you can login to NAIT to check your registered animals list.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T REGISTER MY CALVES?**

It is an offence not to tag and register calves unless the animals are exempt from tagging. PICAs (persons in charge of animals) who fail to register a calf before the animal is 180 days old or when it moves off the NAIT number (whichever comes first), may receive fines or face prosecutions.

### **WHAT TAGS SHOULD I USE?**

NAIT birth tags should be used to tag all calves. Birth tags are printed with a visual ID number; i.e. your NAIT number or dairy participant code, an optional year code, and a sequence number. Using tags in numerical order makes it easier to register them in the NAIT online system.

### **WHERE CAN I PURCHASE NAIT TAGS?**

Birth sets can be purchased from several accredited manufacturers, including your local farm supply store, vet or artificial breeding provider. Birth sets are NAIT tags that come with a matching panel tag printed with the same visual ID number. This can make it easier to visually identify the animal's tag number.

### **AREN'T BIRTH TAGS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN REPLACEMENT TAGS?**

No, the difference between a NAIT birth tag and a NAIT replacement tag is the printed number on the casing of the tag. The printed number on the tag doesn't affect the price.

There are a range of NAIT tags available, so it is best to talk to your retailer about your options.

### **I TAG MY CALVES WHEN THEY LEAVE THE PROPERTY, IS THIS ALLOWED?**

If they are moving before they are 180 days old, then this is fine. You will need to ensure that they are tagged and registered in your NAIT account before they move off farm.

### **HOW DO I IMPROVE TAG RETENTION ON MY CALVES?**

Recommended practice is to tag your calf to the central/inner part of the ear between the two veins, with the RFID portion (female) of the tag facing forward.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN SELLING CALVES?**

Ensure the calves are tagged and registered before they are moved off farm, and record a sending movement. To record a sending movement, you will need to know the tag numbers of the calves and the NAIT number of the purchaser.

You can register a line of calves and record a sending movement at the same time. Once you have finished the animal registration, click 'Move these animals' in the green confirmation box at the top of the screen.

### **CAN A SALEYARD COMPLETE NAIT MOVEMENTS ON MY BEHALF?**

Yes, they can. Your calves must be tagged and registered before they are sent to sale.

### **ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS FOR REGISTERING CALVES?**

Calves moving direct to slaughter (bobby calves) are exempt from being tagged and registered in NAIT.

### **? NEED HELP?**

For more information visit:  
[www.ospri.co.nz/  
tagandregisteryouranimals](http://www.ospri.co.nz/tagandregisteryouranimals)