



IDTrax: Traceability in action

By Marike Hillocks

In today's livestock industry, traceability is no longer a luxury or a 'nice to have' – it has become a necessity.

Breeding quality livestock is only part of the equation; producers must also demonstrate where animals come from, where they have been, and who owned them. Additional information, such as how animals were treated or which other animals they have been in contact with, may also be relevant.

Livestock traceability is the ability to track an animal through every stage of the value chain, from birth to the final consumer. It protects herds and producers, and builds trust between value chain role-players. Moreover, in the event of a disease outbreak, officials can quickly identify and isolate affected animals, helping to contain disease and safeguard farms as well as the broader industry.

IDTrax at a glance

IDTrax is developed and maintained by SA Stud Book. It is integrated with the Logix system and is connected to the Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) traceability platform (for users registered with a global location number [GLN] on the RMIS system and recorded on Logix or IDTrax). It is designed to equip producers with fast, simple, real-time traceability.

IDTrax is a digital platform that links animals' identification marks, such as brands or tattoos, to their ear tags, thus creating a verified digital identity. Think of it as a digital record book for your livestock. Producers can define farm boundaries, track animals using RFID or QR-coded ear tags, monitor livestock transport, and maintain vaccination and treatment records.

Why IDTrax matters

The livestock industry is rapidly evolving, with technology and mandatory traceability becoming essential for

disease control, food security, regulatory compliance, and meeting export requirements. Instead of asking questions like "When was this cow vaccinated?" or "Which cattle has this cow been in contact with?", IDTrax delivers instant answers at the click of a mouse. It validates animal movements and vaccinations, enabling the creation of certificates that can be verified online or by scanning the QR code found on each certificate.

Your animal information is securely stored in IDTrax and accessible only to you and those you authorise. Movement data is shared with RMIS only when the owner provides a registered RMIS GLN. The shared data includes only GLN-to-GLN transfers, the date of movement, and the animals involved.

How to Use IDTrax

Step 1: Visit www.rmis.co.za/services/traceability/ and enter your cell number to receive a one-time PIN. Select your farm boundaries on the map. Receive your unique GLN.

Step 2: Go to www.idtrax.co.za or simply search IDTrax online. The app can be downloaded from your browser.

Step 3: Log in using your Logix or DSS credentials. If you don't have a Logix or DSS profile, register as a new user by creating IDTrax login details.

Step 4: Once logged in, open the dashboard from where you can save your farm location using your GLN number and RMIS access key. Optionally, add multiple camps to manage animal movement.

Step 5: You can add animals in two ways: scan the tag directly or upload data using an Excel spreadsheet.

Common concerns

"I rent land, so this does not apply to me" – The platform tracks location only and does not require proof of land ownership. Your contact details are all that's needed to issue a GLN number, which can be used immediately on IDTrax.

"The government will use my personal info and have access to my animals" – The traceability platform is industry-led. Your personal data remains private. Only you, through your unique GLN, can view your animals and camps. The only information shared is animal movement data between registered GLN numbers.

"Traceability is a money-making scheme" – The GLN (RMIS) traceability platform is funded externally, so producers can register and obtain a GLN at no cost. IDTrax is also free to use. Producers retain the flexibility to choose their preferred tag supplier.

"This won't work because I have no cellphone signal on my farm" – IDTrax provides a robust online-first platform with comprehensive offline support. Animal movements can be recorded without signal and will automatically synchronise with RMIS once connectivity is restored.

The bottom line

Traceability is essential to protecting your livestock and the red meat industry. Without accurate records of animal movements, controlling outbreaks like foot-and-mouth disease becomes exponentially more difficult. When transparency is lacking, consumers turn elsewhere and export markets lose trust. By registering with RMIS and adopting a traceability platform, you not only contribute to a stronger, safer industry, but become part of the solution. ^{SF}

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