



# UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2013 RESOLUTION

117<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 17-23, 2013 ~ SAN DIEGO, CA

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 26 - APPROVED**

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPORT OF THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A PUBLICALLY-ACCESSIBLE RESOURCE THAT COMPILES IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, DISEASE-SPECIFIC, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR MOVING LIVESTOCK INTERSTATE**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States government's final Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate rule that established general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate took effect March 11, 2013. While the Federal rule, commonly called the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule, stipulates a uniform set of minimum national standards for States and Tribes to follow, each State and Tribe is charged with administering traceability activities that align with the federal rule and have the flexibility to make a variety of decisions within the rule. For example, States and Tribes have the ability to agree to accept as official identification registered brands, tattoos or other breed-specific identification methods. Additionally, States and Tribes have the ability to agree to alternative documentation, as opposed to an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), to meet the ADT rule requirements.

While ADT was designed to provide this flexibility, variables among states increase the challenges in implementing the new approach. An ADT implementation survey was conducted in July 2013 by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Livestock Marketing Association. As anticipated, the survey, which was completed by 43 States, showed a great deal of variation in what States were accepting to meet the federal ADT requirements as well as a variety of additional state-specific identification requirements.

In addition to varying identification requirements, state livestock importation, movement documentation, and disease-specific requirements vary. Often, the answer to the question of what is required to move livestock from one state to another is to call the state veterinarian's office in the receiving state. However, in many situations, such as livestock sold at a Saturday sale, the veterinarian who calls a State veterinarian's office does not receive an immediate response.



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Discussion at the USAHA and NIAA joint meeting on ADT in August 2013 and at other meetings have identified an industry need for one resource to find requirements for moving livestock of different classes from one state to another. Ideally, the resource could be available online and as a mobile application.

It was discussed in the Animal Identification committee at USAHA in October 2013 that this effort could begin with cattle movement requirements and then expand into other species. Also discussed at this meeting was the possibility of building a system that has uses in an animal health emergency situation in addition to its day-to-day uses. For example, perhaps this system could be used to provide information about new livestock and commodity movement requirements in the event of an emergency, such as secure milk requirements to allow the milk supply to continue flowing despite a disease event.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials collaborate with USAHA and private and public stakeholders to create and maintain an easy-to-use, publically-accessible resource that compiles identification, documentation, disease-specific, and other movement requirements for livestock moving interstate.

Furthermore, the USAHA supports the development of this resource being created in a manner that would allow for additional uses such as emergency response.

### **INTERIM RESPONSE:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. The National Animal Health Information Technology Board (NAHITB), with representation from the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and VS, formed a working group to respond to USAHA resolution 26. The working group completed its report, including a recommended solution, in December 2013. Their report was received and accepted by the NAHITB on January 16, 2014. The report has been forwarded on to the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials for its consideration.