Update: Animal Health Information Exchange Standards

Sara Ahola, DVM, MA
Colorado State Department of Agriculture
&
Michael McGrath
Trace First
Background

- Emergence of multiple electronic health certificates
- Each with a unique way of reporting data
- Cost associated in building a “schema” to import data from any new forms coming into the marketplace
- It became apparent that data standards need to exist to enhance the quick and accurate flow of data
Growing Marketplace of IT

• eCVI Systems
  - Private, state-based, federal-based

• Animal Health Management Systems
  - USAHerds, SCS/Trace First, “home-grown” systems

• Auction Market Management Systems
  - Proprietary or “home-grown”

• Laboratory Information Management Systems
  - Proprietary or “home-grown”

Need a language to “Cross-Talk”
USAHA 2012 –
Creation of Committee

• Subcommittee on Information Standards
  (Parent committee: Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems)

• Four Constituents
  • State
  • Federal
  • Private-Sector
  • Academia

Meeting regularly by phone and online via “group” websites
First Project: eCVI

- Determined XML to be the common language for data transmission

- Accommodated USDA-APHIS-VS Data Standards for ICVIs (July 2012)

- Input from State Animal Health Officials’ Subcommittee on Traceability

- Writing XML schema for the transfer of ICVI data
eCVI XML Schema

• Significant progress – majority of schema written

• Devil’s in the details:
  - A few sticky issues of coding data
    • Simple: enumerating of sex-type (castrated, intact, etc.)
    • Complicated: Reporting of test data
Next Steps:
- Come to agreement on known issues
- Test the schema between systems
- Launch the schema to interested parties

Note: This is a voluntary schema – a suggested guideline, the free market will bear out the need to follow the guideline
Questions & Discussion