

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

Chair: Tony Forshey, OH
Vice Chair: Kevin Maher, IA

J Lee Alley, AL; Joan Arnoldi, WI; James Averill, MI; Lowell Barnes, IN; Bill Barton, ID; C. Black, GA; Gwen Bosley, CO; Richard Breitmeyer, CA; Paul Brennan, IN; Becky Brewer-Walker, AR; Gary Brickler, CA; Charlie Broaddus, VA; James Carroll, MO; Jon Caspers, IA; Michael Coe, UT; Jim Collins, MN; Karen Conyngham, TX; Scott Dewald, OK; Reta Dyess, TX; Anita Edmondson, CA; Leonard Eldridge, WA; James England, ID; J Amelita Facchiano, TX; Glenn Fischer, TX; Betsy Flores, VA; Dave Fly, NM; Robert Fourdraine, WI; W. Kent Fowler, CA; Tony Frazier, AL; Mallory Gaines, DC; Rod Hall, OK; Steven Halstead, MI; Neil Hammerschmidt, MD; William Hartmann, MN; Nephi Harvey, UT; Greg Hawkins, TX; Bill Hawks, DC; Jay Hawley, IN; Burke Healey, CO; Carl Heckendorf, CO; Bob Hillman, ID; Donald Hoenig, ME; Dudley Hoskins, DC; Joseph Huff, CO; Dennis Hughes, NE; John Huntley, WA; Jon Johnson, TX; Jamie Jonker, VA; Susan Keller, ND; Bruce King, UT; Ralph Knowles, FL; Maxwell Lea, Jr., LA; James Leafstedt, SD; Mary Lis, CT; Jim Logan, WY; Laurent O'Gene Lollis, FL; Francine Lord, CAN; Bret Marsh, IN; David Marshall, NC; Jay Mattison, WI; Paul McGraw, WI; James McKean, IA; Thomas McKenna, WI; Ron Miller, PA; Ernie Morales, TX; Henry Moreau, LA; Jim Niewold, IL; Kenneth Olson, IL; Elizabeth Parker, ITA; Boyd Parr, SC; Ben Pendergrass, DC; Jewell Plumley, WV; John Ragan, MD; Valerie Ragan, VA; Jeanne Rankin, MT; Tom Ray, NC; Justin Roach, OK; Nancy Robinson, MO; Keith Roehr, CO; Bill Sauble, NM; A. David Scarfe, IL; Shawn Schafer, ND; Stacey Schwabenlander, MN; Andy Schwartz, TX; Charly Seale, TX; Laurie Seale, WI; Craig Shultz, PA; Richard Sibbel, IA; Kathryn Simmons, DC; David Smith, NY; Robert Stout, KY; Nick Striegel, CO; Scott Stuart, CO; Paul Sundberg, IA; Arnaldo Vaquer, VA; Rick Wahlert, CO; Mark Walter, PA; James Watson, MS; Patrick Webb, IA; Richard Wilkes, VA; John Williams, MD; George Winegar, MI; Josh Winegarner, TX; Cindy Wolf, MN; Taylor Woods, MO; Glen Zebarth, MN; Ernest Zirkle, NJ.

The Committee met on October 23, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There were 101 members and guests present.

The agenda was reviewed and followed for the meeting, with the following presentations.

USDA Reorganization Structure

T.J. Myers

USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS)

Reorganization of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is driven by the following factors:

- New technologies
- Emergencies, disasters, and agroterrorism
- Food safety concerns
- Flat or decreasing budgets

The new structure will be comprised of the following key components that plan to begin phasing in by spring 2013:

- Movement and Marketability
- Surveillance, Preparedness and Response
- Science, Technology and Analysis
- Program Support Services

USDA-APHIS-VS - Update on Animal Disease Traceability Framework

Neil Hammerschmidt and John Wiemers

USDA-APHIS-VS

Overview

In early 2010, the USDA announced a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability (ADT). The ADT framework, as it has been developed, is intended to:

- Apply only to animals moved interstate
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to increase flexibility
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology
- Be implemented transparently through Federal regulations and the full rulemaking process

The new approach is performance-based. It is designed to measure outcomes that will document successful advancement of animal disease traceability. Preliminary traceability performance standards have been prepared by the initial ADT Regulatory Working Group consisting of both State and Federal animal health officials.

Current Status

On August 9, 2011, USDA issued a proposed rule—based on the framework described above—to establish general regulations for the traceability of US livestock moved interstate that would support animal disease control programs. Under the proposed rule, livestock moved interstate must—unless specifically exempted—be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other documentation such as an owner-shipper

statement or brand certificate. The comment period for the proposed rule ended December 9, 2011. The final rule remains under review at the Office of Management and Budget. We had expected to publish it this summer.

Developments

While the final traceability regulation awaits publication, USDA (through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)) will continue to work on components of the traceability framework. For example, we plan to focus on the activities to be addressed in our current traceability cooperative agreements as well as those that will soon be developed for FY 2013.

One way that we are focusing on traceability activities is by implementing our "road maps." In 2012, APHIS began implementing animal disease traceability road maps prepared by States that obtain USDA funding to help support ADT activities. These road maps, or strategies, outline each participating State's vision, long-term plans, and objectives in implementing traceability locally.

APHIS is also focusing on the use of tags and other official identification devices. APHIS has expanded the availability of National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags and taggers to support principles of the ADT framework. Increased use of these and other official identification devices, along with proper tag distribution practices, will lead to improved traceability. APHIS is further building an electronic infrastructure sufficient to support easy retrieval of animal health information, as this activity is also critical to improved traceability. States should continue efforts to make searchable data available via information systems to enhance tracing capabilities.

Another key area in improving animal disease traceability is development of more efficient interstate certificate of veterinary inspections (ICVIs); these are vital documents in providing livestock movement information. All efforts to advance the use of electronic ICVI options need to be considered and supported. However, as paper ICVIs will be used for some time, USDA also recommends investing in their conversion to electronic media to achieve searchable data.

APHIS will work with ADT cooperators to annually test tracing capabilities based on defined tracing activities. APHIS will compile the results from participants to establish baseline data that will be used to measure and document the program's progress.

Another area that USDA will continue to focus on is collection of identification devices. The traceability proposed rule contains provisions that strengthen the collection of identification devices at slaughter.

APHIS conducted a study from April through mid-July 2012 to assess the current level of collection of various types of livestock identification devices (ID) in slaughter establishments. APHIS employees conducted the study by observing device collection. While the survey was in progress, many of the top 40 plants that had been collecting blood samples no longer collected them, or collected fewer samples. APHIS anticipated that reduced sample collection would result in a reduction in overall ID collection at those plants. It will be critical to monitor the level of collection through regular visits to slaughter establishments to see if reduction in blood sample collection does affect the collection of ID.

APHIS has never done a study of current ID collection. The data establish a benchmark which APHIS can use as a comparison in future surveys. APHIS did not intend the study to document compliance with existing regulations or to measure the performance of APHIS field employees assigned to work with slaughter establishments. APHIS intended to determine the current status of slaughter ID collection to identify gaps, focus resources, develop effective education and outreach strategies, and establish a benchmark with which to measure progress.

The first part of the study (Round 1) focused on the top 40 adult cattle slaughter establishments in terms of number of head slaughtered.

This report highlights the major findings of Round 1, which include:

- The percentage of plants that collected IDs all or most of the time ranged from 66 percent for non-840 radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags to 97 percent for USDA backtags
- When more than one of a given type of ID is present (e.g., more than one official USDA metal eartag), the percentage of plants collecting IDs all or most of the time ranged from 64 percent for non-840 RFID eartags to 82 percent for USDA backtags
- Over 80 percent of plants linked ID devices with the carcass through final inspection all or most of the time for all ID types
- Although it is not a Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) or APHIS requirement, 94 percent of the plants recorded the USDA backtag number all or most of the time. For the other five common ID types, APHIS field staff at well over half of the plants observed that those plants never recorded the numbers
- Length of time ID is held was similar for all ID types. While about one-fourth of plants discard ID immediately after final inspection, about half hold ID 1 to 2 days; the rest hold ID 3 or more days
- Most establishments will need minimal changes, and APHIS field employees will face minimal challenges in gaining full compliance with the collection of most ID devices and storing them after final inspection to make them available to APHIS
- Most of the changes and challenges are related to storing IDs for more than 3 or 4 days after final inspection

APHIS finds it encouraging that there is a high degree of compliance with existing regulations in most of the top adult cattle slaughter plants. The data also indicate areas for improvement, however. The data help us appreciate the challenges in implementing the traceability rule. The plants may have to make changes, our field employees may need to make changes, and they certainly will face obstacles. The good news is that the challenge is not as big as it could have been. While the final rule awaits publication, APHIS will collaborate with FSIS increase compliance with existing regulations to ensure we make immediate progress on this important aspect of traceability.

Conclusion

The publication of the final traceability rule remains a high priority; while it is pending, USDA will continue to implement key facets of the framework. Doing so will advance the infrastructure to support improved traceability.

State and Federal Enforcement Plans of Changing ID Requirements

Bill Hartmann

Minnesota Board of Animal Health; and

Susan Keller

North Dakota Board of Animal Health

Dr. Bill Hartmann presented the results of a questionnaire that he conducted with state veterinarians. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine where states are in their efforts to trace intrastate movements of breeding cattle and to assess interest in sharing information about traceability among states. The following questions were asked in the questionnaire:

What are your current requirements for intrastate movement of breeding cattle?

Are you in the process of making changes to those regulations?

What are your plans for enforcement of:

- Intrastate regulations for movement of breeding cattle
- The new federal regulations for interstate movement of breeding cattle

Do you anticipate having interstate movement agreements with other states as allowed by the proposed federal regulations?

Would you be interested in National Association of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) or USAHA coordinating an exchange of information on what is happening in all the states relative to traceability?

Based on the questionnaire he concluded that all states are taking action to improve their ability to trace intrastate movements of breeding cattle, there is a wide variability in how they do that and there is great interest in sharing information among states.

Forty one states responded to the questionnaire (results not provided).

eCVI, IT, Data Standards Discussion Updates

Keith Roehr¹, Sara Aohla¹, Michael Martin², Kevin Maher³

¹Colorado Department of Agriculture

²South Carolina Animal Industry Division/Clemson University

³GlobalVetLink, LC

Recent USAHerds User Group had a discussion on import of data from various electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (eCVIs) into USAHerds. 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.

The growing marketplace of IT that has created this need, includes:

- eCVI Systems: Private, state-based, federal-based
- Animal Health Management Systems: USAHerds, SCS, "home-grown" systems
- Auction Market Management Systems: Proprietary or "home-grown"
- Laboratory Information Management Systems: Proprietary or "home-grown"

Summary - Each serves its own niche. Value will be enhanced by communication of system-to-system. The value of Animal Health IT will be increased by data exchange to enhance traceability – speed and accuracy.

Cost may be kept lower by agreeing on common standards for communication. We need to establish these standards.

Discussion followed by John Picanso on the status of the interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) document standards which are reported to be pending for Federal Register posting- expected by November 2012, followed by a comment period.

Committee Business:

The Committee passed a motion to endorse the formation of a subcommittee of the committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems.

TOPIC: Development of Standard for Exchange of Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

SOURCE: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

SUBJECT MATTER: REQUEST ANIMAL HEALTH DATA STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE DEVELOP STANDARD FOR EXCHANGE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On Sunday, October 21, 2012, the USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems will consider establishment of an Animal Health Data Standards Subcommittee. This subcommittee would be charged with identifying and or creating appropriate technical standards for the exchange of animal health information between information systems. These standards will represent a consensus of government entities, industry, and animal health information systems developers.

The data standards subcommittee will be formed for the purpose of dealing with significant issues of animal health data exchange. A major driving factor in creation of this subcommittee is the need for standards for exchange of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVI). The growing number of eCVI implementations along with increasing reliance upon the data contained in eCVIs for animal disease traceability, make the need for a common data interchange standard critical.

MOTION:

The ID committee requests that the USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems through that subcommittee develop a common standard for the exchange of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection. In addition, the National Assembly requests that the subcommittee also explore methods and standards that would facilitate the sharing of scanned paper certificates of veterinary inspection between states including the capture of any critical data that may be extracted by the scanning state. This subcommittee is tasked with reporting such standards to AAVLD/USAHA via its parent committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

The ID Committee requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), send appropriate technical experts to participate in this subcommittee, and to cite standards developed where it requires exchange of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection.

The Committee also passed the resolution that had been previously approved by the joint USAHA/AAVLD Committee on Animal Emergency Management, "Use of 840 radio frequency identification (RFID) Ear Tags for Use in Identification of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) "Vaccinated-to-Live" Livestock."