
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 34 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON CATTLE AND BISON

**SUBJECT MATTER: TWO-PRONGED APPROACH NEEDED FOR ADVANCING
CATTLE TRACEABILITY**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

From the traceability efforts of the Market Cattle Identification (MCI) program focused on the eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis to the United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) initiated with the eradication of Brucellosis and phasing out of MCI, to the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) following the finding of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and to the current Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program, traceability of the United States breeding cattle herd has been an ongoing effort framed by State and federal regulations outlining identification and movement documentation requirements. The specific purpose of this program is to allow rapid and accurate traceability of diseased cattle allowing identification, containment and removal of these animals for control purposes or to achieve or maintain disease eradication. A key component to the success of each of these programs is efficiency through full MANDATORY compliance for eligible animals thereby providing pinpoint traces and eliminating unnecessary quarantine testing or depopulation of herds implicated from a broad swath approach.

In parallel, the feeding sector of the United States beef industry has independently pursued VOLUNTARY traceability efforts through private alliances and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Process Verified Programs (PVP) and Quality System Assessment (QSA) value added programs allowing value added marketing to both local and international trade partners.

In 2017, the USDA formed a “State and Federal Working Group” with substantial experience and knowledge of animal disease traceability that “comprehensively reviewed stakeholder feedback and prepared the preliminary” fourteen recommendations for the advancement of animal disease traceability based on the feedback received from the public meetings held in April through July of 2017.

Feedback from stakeholders at these public meetings was very supportive of moving the current MANDATORY ADT program forward with enhancements to make it more efficient, yet it loudly and clearly stated that feeder cattle traceability should remain VOLUNTARY.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to prioritize enhancing the existing mandatory Animal Disease Traceability program based upon the fourteen recommendations made by the State and Federal Working Group, which received feedback from the industry on those proposed directions. USDA should maintain continued support for the voluntary value-added programs and augment opportunities for the feeding sector to enhance trade and marketing.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, appreciates the recommendation from USAHA and the opportunity to respond. Based on the State and Federal Working Group's recommendations, USDA developed four overarching priorities for the ADT program: (1) electronic ID; (2) data sharing; (3) birth origin to slaughter termination tracing; and (4) electronic movement documentation and is taking specific actions in each of these areas to advance ADT. USDA continue to review and consider additional aspects of the 14 recommendations as we develop and implement further enhancements to the mandatory ADT program. USDA also appreciates the added value of the voluntary programs in the feeder sector and will continue to support participation in USDA programs and encourage public-private partnerships to enhance trade and marketing efforts.