

2022
ADVANCING ADT
ROAD MAP FOR
FLORIDA

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Road Map for Florida has been developed in conjunction with our Florida AVIC following the guidance of the USDA Animal Disease Traceability Program. It is expected that this document will support the USDA Animal Disease Traceability Framework which has been developed as a guide for a national animal identification and traceability program.

On January 9, 2013, USDA published USDA Animal Traceability Requirements (Chapter 9, Part 86, Code of Federal Regulations) establishing minimum national official animal identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of livestock moving interstate.

On September 4, 2014, Florida Cattle Identification Rules (Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code) became effective. These rules require that cattle and bison 18 months of age and older, moving intrastate, bear Official Identification unless specifically exempted from Florida Administrative Rule.

In March and April of 2017, the USDA conducted meetings with all livestock industry “stakeholders” in an effort to gain feedback from the nation and the industry on animal disease traceability. USDA expressed commitment to helping the industry move towards mutually agreeable goals and relying on industry to lead any effort to increase the focus on animal identification and animal disease traceability.

In June of 2017, the Florida Cattlemen’s Association formed a Cattle Identification Task Force. The Task Force includes representatives from each sector of Florida’s cattle industry and animal health professionals. The purpose of the Task Force is to develop a blueprint of a cattle identification program that will serve the industry. Other stated goals of this industry-led group include finding ways to increase the utilization of Official Identification. The consensus points from the first meeting were:

1. Animal Disease Traceability is needed.
2. A National System must utilize electronic technology.
3. A mandatory system will be required to be fully efficient and comprehensive. The Task Force acknowledged the difficulties of marketing a “Mandatory” rather than a “Voluntary” system.
4. Official Identification should be applied as animals first enter commerce to link them to premises of origin.

State animal health officials recognize the need for traceability but also recognize the role that USDA will need to play by providing uniformity, funding and a lasting commitment to make the efforts successful. Significant reductions in program activity and staffing over the last 15 years by both USDA and the state of Florida have resulted in reduced animal disease surveillance and traceability. Florida animal health officials

plan to collaborate with the USDA to assist the industry with implementation of the state and federal rules that provide for a uniform, effective, and flexible system to control and eradicate animal disease.

Protecting Florida agriculture by safeguarding animal health is vital to producers and consumers of livestock products on local, state, national, and international levels. The availability of healthy livestock and poultry is a core component of providing the public with a safe, abundant, and an affordable food supply. Preventing the introduction or further spread of animal diseases that harms both livestock and the livelihoods of producers has many advantages. Implementation of traceability regulations will enable increased protection and support the economic well-being of the industry.

Although farmers and ranchers work diligently to protect their animals and the industry, there is no guarantee the animals will be spared from disease. The challenge and threat of animal disease increases incrementally as the movement of humans and livestock domestically and internationally increases. Florida has 21 international ports. Increasing trade of animals and animal products, and a suitable climate for foreign animal diseases and pests makes Florida extremely vulnerable to the introduction of devastating diseases of livestock and poultry.

Protecting Florida's livestock, safeguards animal health and the marketability of the livestock products produced. The implementation of adequate disease prevention and control measures increases consumer confidence and the marketability of agricultural products. Traceability of animals is a critical factor in the control and eradication of foreign or program animal disease.

Animal disease traceability is critical to the success of Florida's disease control activities. While prevention is our priority, an effective response system must be in place in the event of a disease outbreak. The potential emergence of highly contagious diseases makes the need even more urgent. To effectively prevent disease from spreading and to eradicate disease where it exists, tracing of infected and exposed animals, in a rapid and accurate manner, is paramount. Advancing animal disease traceability is a critical component of disease control and eradication systems. Rapid and effective response will help to minimize the negative economic impact of animal disease.

A traceability plan will support the sharing of data and animal health information between all entities when it becomes necessary. Resources needed to reach the objectives of advancing animal disease traceability include cooperation between producers, state, tribal, and federal officials and the sharing of costs as necessary.

Annual budgets can be established only after a program is further defined. Since 2009, Florida has spent more than \$230,000 annually on animal disease traceability with

approximately 60% of this coming from Federal Cooperative Agreement funding. Costs associated with animal identification records and data management can be expected to be significant. These costs are expected to be borne by industry, states, tribes and federal partners.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry (DAI) is funded primarily through general revenue dollars with no funding designated specifically for traceability. Only programs supported by fee-generated revenue are guaranteed to be funded. Cost-sharing is achieved via the use of general revenue monies. Existing funding will be utilized in support of traceability programs to the extent that funds are available. Much of the current work that is carried out for disease prevention and control involves traceability activities. In recent years, state contributions have covered approximately 40% of the cost of traceability programs.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry (DAI) is primarily responsible for implementing traceability initiatives and will be referred to as DAI for remainder of document. Since 2004, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has joined the Department in efforts to implement plans to increase animal disease traceability. The Department has also conducted pilot projects with other private ranchers, cattle brokers, and veterinary practitioners.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida continues to be a partner with DAI in traceability implementation. The Tribe's large cow-calf operation continues to be a model for demonstrating the utility of electronic identification and record-keeping as a herd management tool.

The DAI has many constituents. According to 2017 USDA Agriculture Census data, Florida's animal industry is made up of more than 50,000 individual producers. Approximately 67 percent of livestock premises are currently registered. State officials believe that these registered premises house greater than 85 percent of the livestock. Livestock and poultry owners range in size from owners of "back yard" flocks and herds to some of the nation's largest brood cow herds. The DAI is charged with protecting and assisting producers from all sectors. Collaboration between USDA, DAI, veterinary practitioners, livestock markets, and producers is used to facilitate the statewide Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program.

The Florida Animal Disease Coordinating Group is a subcommittee of the Florida Animal Industry Technical Council (AITC). The Coordinating Group includes producers, industry groups, livestock market owners, a tribal representative, and an allied industries representative. The Coordinating Group meets as needed and communicates via electronic mail

and telephone. The AITC meetings are held one to four times annually and the ADT program is discussed at each meeting.

The Florida Cattlemen's Association has formed an Animal Disease Traceability Taskforce in conjunction with other stakeholder associations including Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Association of Livestock Markets, Florida Dairy Farmers, and several meat processing businesses. This Taskforce has been the driving force behind the multi-state demonstration project which Florida has participated in with Texas and Kansas. These projects were partially funded by the USDA and have allowed for collection of significant data regarding the use of both Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Low Frequency (LF), identification devices in cattle of various ages and market groups.

DAI is the lead agency for the entire state of Florida regarding ADT efforts in close coordination with our federal partners. DAI personnel enter ADT related data into federal databases which communicate with AHER in accordance with ADT framework.

DAI personnel have access to Animal Disease Traceability Information System (ADTIS) component databases such as Animal Identification Management System (AIMS), SCS Core One, Premises Management, Emergency Management Response System (EMRS), and Data Integration System (DIS). Traceability data is entered into these databases and as needed specific data can be retrieved by DAI or USDA.

2.2 Animal Disease Traceability in Florida, as in the US, varies widely between industries and within industries. FDACS, DAI considers ADT to be a part of our mission responsibilities and integrated into most of our animal health activities.

Premises management and management of Official Identification devices occur as stand-alone options or as part of other animal health activities. Applications for Premises Registration and Request for Official Identification Devices are managed through the Cattle Programs Office with DAI. DAI field personnel and program managers coordinate regularly regarding ADT as part of the overall animal health programs implemented as our mission to safeguard Florida's animal agriculture. DAI and USDA counterparts communicate on a regular basis regarding ADT and participate in several working groups to facilitate the advancement of the national ADT framework.

Coordination within DAI and with USDA includes weekly management calls, monthly ADT calls, monthly calls with DAI field personnel and direct calls between Cattle Programs Office and field personnel as well as USDA Animal Identification Coordinator (AIC). Standard Operating Procedures

for field activities include messaging processes for all documents related to ADT program. Quarterly Accomplishment Reports and Compliance & Enforcement Reports are provided to Florida USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) and AIC.

Implementation of the 2014 Florida Cattle Identification Rule, Florida Administrative Code 5C-31, is helping to drive the utilization of Official ID in the cattle sector.

FDACS and DAI continue efforts to protect Florida agriculture as changes and challenges are addressed. Needs and infrastructure must be balanced against budgets and other mandates.

Currently, the success of traces is monitored individually and according to various disease protocols. Coordination within FDACS involves staff on many levels to ensure effective tracing. Coordination between USDA, FDACS, veterinary practitioners, livestock markets, livestock processors, and producers is used to facilitate traces. DAI regularly coordinates with other state agencies such as the Department of Health and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission during disease investigations which may include trace activities. Resources of the FDACS and the Florida Division of Emergency Management are available round-the-clock if warranted.

Databases and files utilized in Florida:

- ADTIS (USDA database) – multiple DAI personnel use these systems regularly
 - Premises Management –system for the registration of premises for allocation of Premises Identification Numbers (PINs).
 - SCS Core One – repository of program disease activities such as Brucellosis Vaccination Record, Tuberculosis Test Records and Interstate movement documents.
 - Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS) – system for capture of distribution of Official Identification Devices.
 - Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPPS) – allows for verification of veterinary accreditation and offers an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection which is utilized by many Florida veterinarians.
 - Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) – primary database for animal disease response and portal to the Animal Health Event Repository (AHER) system. We also perform Trace Performance Exercises in this system.
- CVI Central – subscription service is utilized to process Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Those CVIs with

Official Identification numbers are migrated into the SCS Core One database. Summary information for livestock species from CVIs without Official ID is also migrated to the SCS Core One database.

- Commerce Transport Imaging System (CTIS) utilized by the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement - state database to record Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspections (OCVIs) passing through Florida interdiction stations. This database can be used to flag and screen shipments based on several key criteria.
- Livestock market data is a mixture of paper and electronic files. FDACS is working with markets and software companies to continue procession to electronic transmission of this data. Some markets have progressed with infrastructure and electronic capture while others have been slow to adopt electronic transmission of data.

Traces initiated based on an official identification such as backtag or official ear tag are frequently requested for disease surveillance or residue concerns. Backtag information is available at the DAI Cattle Programs Office or at the livestock market/dealer issuing the backtags. Backtag reports are forwarded by each market to the Cattle Programs Office and are available for epidemiologic investigations. Official ear tags of Florida origin can be traced within the USDA databases for all program activities. If no program activities have occurred since placement of the tag, a bookend approach and contact point of origin based on information from the database is utilized.

Traces initiated based on history of animal movement are generally initiated in the AHER system. Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) are maintained in accordance with ADT final rule, 9CFR86. Beginning in 2020, all OCVIs are entered through the CVI Central portal which allows searching by date, species, state of origin, state of destination and a category which DAI assigns. The category allows search by whether official identification was available. For OCVIs with official identification, the certificates can message directly to SCS Core One with the individual identification numbers. Individual ID in the SCS Core One system is uploaded to AHER. CTIS database is utilized if there is a time frame for movement of concern. Each CTIS search can be based on species, a time frame and the state of destination/origin. Movement from Approved Livestock Markets in Florida, Alabama and Georgia may be under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) permits issued by inspectors at the markets. These forms are entered into StateVet.com for transmission to databases of the state of destination. Florida's data is moving to SCS Core One.

Traces that identify only the premises of origin/destination can require interviews as well as information of herd history available in archived databases or current CoreOne databases. Herd records (when available) are

a key factor in the success of these traces. Lack of herd records often necessitates broader investigations.

In Florida, we are fortunate to have a close working relationship with the veterinarians involved in the food animal industries and can contact them for additional specifics requiring inquiries based on a particular shipment as per OCVI records.

DAI is notified of the need to trace animals for a variety of reasons. Most commonly the tracing of animals is related to a disease situation (possible exposure or potential infected animal) or as part of an investigation related to food safety (primarily drug residue concerns). Notification is received by email, fax, phone call or, rarely, electronic notification systems. This notification originates from either state or federal animal health officials in another state or from the USDA/APHIS/VS Area Office or FDA Regional Office. Traces of various types are received. The following bullets describe how these traces are carried out based on the initial information provided.

- Notification = Backtag number for residue concerns or slaughter surveillance suspects (58XX#### format).
 - A slaughter date will be included in these trace requests.
 - Backtag indicates the Livestock Market or Livestock Dealer who presented the animal for slaughter by the two-letter code.
 - Livestock markets complete a backtag report for each sale day and these reports are forwarded to the Cattle Programs Office.
 - DAI has access to these records as needed.
 - Based on the report, we can identify the name of the consignor of the animal to the market.
 - Livestock dealers are required to maintain records of their purchases and sales for two years.
 - DAI staff can contact these dealers for records as needed.
 - DAI staff contacts the consignor of the back tag in question to confirm that they did sell one or more animals on said date. DAI will gather all pertinent information regarding the specific animal in question and the herd in general.
- Notification = A range of backtag numbers and animal description or slaughter date with only lot ID
 - Lot ID is a slaughter plant reference that will list a source such as the Livestock Market or Dealer.
 - As above DAI staff can cross reference animals to multiple consignors but cannot specifically identify the owner of concern.
 - DAI staff can contact all potential consignors and attempt to narrow the inquiry based on added descriptions such as color, gender or breed of animal.

- Example: DAI staff has investigated 42 potential premises related to a single trace of this type.
- Notification = Official eartag (58xxx#### or 58xx####)
 - Official ear tags are distributed by the USDA to specific venues such as accredited veterinarians and FDACS, who will also distribute tags to producers.
 - Records of Official ID distribution are entered into either the AINM or SCS CoreOne.
 - Program testing and vaccination records are entered into SCS CoreOne, which can be searched by a specific eartag number.
 - Through SCS CoreOne, DAI staff can identify the last recorded test or vaccination and the ownership of the animal at that time. The last event of record may be several years old and may have to be traced based on owner information for subsequent movement activities.
- Notification = Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI)
 - DAI staff can contact the veterinarian of record if the OCVI is not legible or if believed to have been altered. Veterinarians are obligated to maintain these records for a minimum of two years.
 - Most OCVIs have legible consignor or consignee information, but often, more additional tracing information is required.
 - DAI staff can verify movement through interdiction stations using the CTIS Agricultural Law Enforcement database.
 - A paper copy submitted by issuing veterinarian is uploaded into the CVI Central system for routing and processing since January 2020. Those certificates received prior to this date are currently filed in a file on network shared drive. These certificates are being uploaded into the CVI Central system to become searchable. All livestock OCVIs are maintained in accordance with 9CFR86.
- Notification = Premises of issue
 - DAI will contact owner of premises according to records to aid in the search.
 - DAI will utilize information available in USDA databases for general herd history and information.
 - When DAI has a time frame of concern, the CTIS Agricultural Law Enforcement database can be used to search for movements through the interdiction stations.
 - DAI has occasionally gone to the herd of interest and individually checked identifications of each animal on the premises to find animals of concern.
 - Records of individual identification devices distributed can be located in either AINMs or SCS CoreOne.
- Notification = Animal name [equine]
 - Owners and trainers commonly provide much of the information regarding movement of horses.

- DAI uses many available resources
 - Equibase
 - Racetrack records and contacts with race stewards
 - Registry offices
 - Show and race result websites
- Official lab test information
 - EIA reports
 - Equine Piroplasmosis
 - Import testing information

Florida continues to encourage veterinarians to adopt electronic CVIs as multiple options are available to them. FDACS will continue training food animal veterinarians and their staff in the utilization of VSPS. Florida veterinarians are provided list of approved electronic certificate vendors including VSPS. Some Florida veterinarians are also working to electronically submit program disease records for direct entry into federal databases.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Traceability is included as an integral component of animal disease control. Recent initiatives to advance Traceability include:
 - Planned Implementation of the Florida Exhibition rule 5C-4 will require all exhibition animals entered in a show to be Officially Identified.
 - Recent efforts to Officially Identify all swine entering Approved Livestock Facilities as been successful. All swine now entering Approved Livestock Facilities are Officially Identified.
 - All samples submitted for USDA Program Diseases are being audited to ensure Official Identification is listed for each animal being tested.
 - Florida Cattle Identification Rule (requires Official ID of adult cattle), Florida Administrative Code 5C-31.
- Increasing utilization of electronic record-keeping systems
- Staff are capable users of available technology
- Staff are proficient users of all currently deployed database systems
- Strong DAI, employing 115 persons
 - DAI Field Staff
 - DAI Diagnostic Disease Laboratory
- Florida Emergency Management System (Emergency Support Function 17 Component for Animal and Agriculture)
- Florida Agricultural Interdiction System. Mandatory road stops at twenty-three (23) locations with monitoring of health certification and animal identification.

- Food animal veterinarians who work closely with state officials and industry.
- Open and Productive Dialogue with Industry
 - Regular engagement with Florida stakeholders including Florida Cattlemen’s Association, Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Association of Livestock Markets
 - District personnel and program manager work closely with the local administration of Florida Fairs and many other exhibition activities
- Effective Communications and Outreach Strategies

Weaknesses:

- Paper-based, labor intensive, tracking systems
- Some veterinarians, producers, and livestock markets are resistant to electronic identification, documentation, and transmission
- Fewer personnel for data management
 - DAI personnel numbers have decreased from 154 in 2004 to 115 employees including the loss of at least six personnel engaged in data entry related to ADT program.
 - Both DAI and USDA have decreased the number of data entry personnel during organizational shrinkages over the past 5 years.
 - Since 2015, DAI is responsible for a majority of data entry into federal databases.
- Shrinking State and Federal budgets
- Florida “Sunshine Law” which allows public access to state held information. In order to protect producer’s privacy, the DAI does not plan to become a manager of individual animal identification numbers or trade information. Florida will continue to rely on USDA to house animal ID data.
- Variations in regulations between states continues to cause confusion for veterinarians and producers.
- Exemptions to Cattle Identification Rules and the allowances for official identification after animals enter commerce have made enforcement difficult and compliance issues are labor intensive.
- Lack of traceability of animals consigned to Recognized Slaughter Facilities.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Continued efforts to implement both the USDA Animal Traceability Rule and the Florida Cattle Identification Rule will move traceability forward in coming years. A comprehensive state emergency management plan includes provisions to support agricultural officials in responding to animal disease challenges.

The challenge and threat of animal disease increases incrementally as the movement of humans, livestock and animal products domestically and

internationally increases. Florida has 21 international ports of entry. Increasing trade of animals and animal products, and a suitable climate for foreign animal diseases and pests, makes Florida more vulnerable to the introduction of devastating diseases of livestock and poultry.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The DAI has the capability to implement animal disease traceability as part of an overarching plan to protect the consumers and producers of livestock from devastation caused by animal disease. Connectivity to the full Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as well as other agencies, broadens the scope of potential assistance. Subscription services to facilitate capture of data in databases essential to animal disease traceability. Access to USDA resources remains a critical factor in the eventual success of such programs.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry's vision statement is: To be the most effective and innovative animal health authority in the United States.

The DAI is the lead state agency serving to protect the health and welfare of Florida's livestock and poultry, support the productivity and marketability of Florida's animal industries, and enhance the availability and safety of our food supply. Traceability plays an integral part in disease prevention, surveillance, and control and, thus, is an essential component of the DAI responsibilities to safeguard both animal and public health.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the DAI is to safeguard Florida's agriculture and the public through animal disease control and emergency response.

The mission of the DAI is to prevent, control, and eradicate infectious and communicable diseases of livestock and domestic animals by working with partners and stakeholders to ensure compliance with state animal health programs and regulations. The mission includes emergency support in responding to man-made or natural disasters affecting animals. Identification and traceability play a key role in successfully carrying out this mission.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

- To develop and implement a state-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State, Tribal, and USDA standards.
- The overarching goal is the development of a comprehensive national system of animal disease traceability.
 1. Enhance electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry; including sharing basic ADT data with the AHER;
 2. Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient;
 3. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
 4. Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State Animal Health Officials.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

Florida will continue to move forward with Animal Disease Traceability through enforcement of current regulations, producer outreach and education, and working with industry. We will continue to collaborate with industry stakeholders and federal partners to enhance traceability.

- Enhance tag distribution and record-keeping system(s)
- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms
- Develop state policy in support of federal rule(s) pertaining to traceability
- Monitor OCVI usage and data quality
- Capture available animal movement data into appropriate systems
- Improve retrieval capabilities of available traceability information
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed
- Integrate surveillance and traceability data

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

Florida performs TPMs in the EMRS system in accordance with USDA Traceability Program as Priority Trace Exercises. Multiple personnel in the DAI Cattle Programs office are trained in the utilizing DIS and EMRS to accomplish these TPMs.

4.4 Data requirements

Animal disease traceability data are acquired through various program work. Storage, retrieval and utilization will continue to be by a multi-

faceted approach. Efforts will continue to make data searchable in the most efficient manner possible. Electronic means are being merged with paper-based systems. Existing information will be integrated into any developing animal disease traceability information system. Increasing human resources will be critical in advancing data entry and data management.

- Premises Identification Numbers – issued and maintained in the USDA Premises Management System.
- The current Florida Cattle Identification Rule accepts official animal identification as prescribed by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and references CFR in state regulations.
- Florida will expand the utilization of official animal identification devices beyond the current system and on a voluntary basis with producers and practitioners. DAI is assisting veterinary practitioners in becoming AIN managers to increase access to electronic devices for small producers. District personnel continue to facilitate distribution of official identification devices for those involved in exhibition activities.
- If USDA announces plans to discontinue acceptance of NUES tags, this change will become an increased responsibility to assist producers advance their technological skills.
- Tag distribution is a collaborative effort. Distribution is captured in the AIMS. State and federal personnel assist in local distribution activities.
- VS Memo 578.12 will serve as a guideline for tag distribution. Florida utilizes official forms for data collection related to tag distribution.
- Utilization of NUES and electronic tags has increased dramatically with the implementation of state and federal requirements for official identification.
- Record-keeping is a core component to all official tag systems. Tags will be assigned to an official premises/premises owner. The veterinarian or livestock owner applying the tags will be responsible for timely submission of accurate and complete records of tag utilization.
- Florida recognizes the need for, and supports, all efforts to move towards more efficient storage and retrieval of animal disease traceability information.
- Data will be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA through USDA and other databases. Current protocol will extend to traceability programs.
- In addition to OCVIs, Florida Form DACS-09158 may be issued by state personnel to permit the movement of cattle to Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama from specifically approved Livestock Markets through state to state agreements.
- USDA Form, VS 1-27 is a permit for movement of restricted animals which can include interstate movement.
- Group/lot official numbers will be handled as prescribed by USDA, VS.
- Florida utilizes the USDA numbering system and does not have a system to assign state identification numbers to livestock or premise.

4.5 Information technology plan

Florida recognizes the need for, and supports, efforts to move towards more efficient storage and retrieval of animal disease traceability information. Florida is in the process of uploading all livestock and equine CVIs into the searchable database through the CVI Central application.

DAI will continue efforts to encourage the use of VSPS or private compliant vendors of eCVIs by food animal and equine veterinarians. It is important that USDA provide vital enhancements to this system and help-desk support. Providing this no-charge option to veterinarians can be an important component of a traceability plan. DAI continue to assist the ADT Modernization processes by participating in working groups and beta testing of IT systems.

4.6 Resource requirements

Animal disease traceability data are acquired through various program work. Storage, retrieval, and utilization will continue to be by a multifaceted approach. Efforts will continue to make data searchable in the most efficient manner possible. This system will be integrated into any developing animal disease traceability information system. The shortage of human resources restricts progress of data management.

- Current DAI staff has specific expertise to implement traceability.
- Additional data management staff may be necessary to record, process, and track large volumes of animal movement data.
- Automated data capture equipment is available in limited supply currently. Additional equipment will help to facilitate further adoption by veterinary practitioners and producers. DAI is working with accredited veterinarians to facilitate the engagement of these practitioners as Animal Identification Managers and providing RFID wands to those who participate.
- DAI has a Continuity of Operations Plan in place. This statewide plan is updated and tested annually as part of the state government's emergency operations plan.

4.7 Organizational needs

4.7.1 Executive support

Florida's State Veterinarian and Director of the Division of Animal Industry is fully supportive of the development of an animal disease traceability system. Other officials, including Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture, are briefed orally and provided documentation on program status and progress. The Division Director and Commissioner are involved in meetings and discussions with affected industry.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Internal program oversight is under the direction of Florida's State Veterinarian and Director of the Division of Animal Industry.

External program oversight and guidance is primarily through the Florida Animal Disease Traceability Working Group. A description of the Florida Animal Disease Traceability Working Group:

The Florida Animal Disease Traceability Working Group was appointed as a subcommittee of the Florida Animal Industry Technical Council (AITC). The AITC is an official advisory board created under Section 70.38, Florida Statutes, to advise and make recommendations to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on issues concerning the protection of the animal and livestock interests of Florida. The Traceability Working Group includes a tribal representative, producers, veterinary practitioners, livestock market owners, a meat packer, and representatives from Florida Farm Bureau and the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

This group meets according to need and meetings can be held as necessary to respond to program announcements. Information is shared via written correspondence and conference calls are scheduled as needed. Meetings of this AITC subcommittee are open to all interested parties in addition to the committee members. These meetings are announced in the Florida Administrative Register as official meetings. Additional feedback is gained through working with all industry groups and stakeholders to implement traceability.

4.7.3 Policy

Florida has broad freedom of information legislation known as the "Sunshine Law." The information which is required to register any premises is basic and not normally considered proprietary. Most producers would prefer that individual animal identification and destination data be considered proprietary information. In order to protect producer's privacy, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, does not plan to become a manager of individual animal identification numbers or trade information.

Florida Statutes, Chapter 119.07 - Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions.

119.07 (1)(a) Every person who has custody of a public record shall permit the record to be inspected and copied by any person desiring to do so, at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the custodian of the public records.

Florida Cattle Identification Rule (Chapter 5C-31, F. A. C.) requires Official Identification of adult cattle (18 months and older) moving within Florida with limited exceptions, including:

- Direct to slaughter movements
- Movements to an Approved Tagging Site
- Movement between premises under common ownership with no commingling as part of normal ranching management

4.7.4 Staffing

Existing DAI and USDA, APHIS, VS staff are currently utilized for implementing animal disease traceability. DAI staff at all levels supports traceability as a core component of the Division's overall mission. Traceability is included as part of many activities of the Division. In addition, key staff members are identified as traceability program managers. Additional DAI and USDA staff would be needed to increase the scale of operations to include more data capture and data management and an increase in services provided.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

The DAI is funded primarily through general revenue dollars with no funding designated specifically for traceability. Only programs that are supported by fee-generated revenue are guaranteed to be funded. Cost-sharing is achieved via the use of general revenue monies. Existing funding will be utilized in support of traceability programs to the extent that funds are available. Much of the current work that is carried out for disease prevention and control involves traceability activities.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

DAI leverages multiple opportunities to provide information to accredited veterinarians. DAI and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association coordinate a continuing education conference which includes animal disease traceability and other program disease activities related to traceability as a key component.

One on one communication with veterinarians is another opportunity to stress resources and important requirements of state and federal programs. Assistance with adoption of the electronic document submission is generally occurring in individual interactions with veterinarians.

Distribution of the "no charge" RFID for use in replacement heifers has been a valuable tool to educate accredited veterinarians and to encourage some to become AIN Managers. Program activities such as Brucellosis Vaccination have also served as an opening to educate veterinarians about electronic data transfer and capture.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

As part of the Traceability Taskforce Pilot Projects, two Florida slaughter facilities have installed infrastructure to facilitate the capture of electronic identification. Current projects include collection of data from both low and ultra-high frequency technologies.

Tag retirement at time of slaughter has been a struggle. Although infrastructure is in place at facilities, capture and transmission of information has been inconsistent. Due to the small number of RFID devices, it has not been a priority of facilities to capture the data. The lack of mandates or financial incentives to stimulate capture and transfer of data will make this a slow process. Slaughter facilities are not motivated to pay personnel time or server costs to facilitate the transmission of this data into federal system. The pilot project will demonstrate the readability and retention of a variety of RFID devices utilized in the identification of cattle moving to slaughter channels in multiple facilities.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

General outreach will continue to the extent possible through media and participation in producer meetings. DAI staff is involved with all types of producer groups of all types from various food animal, equine and poultry species. Staff is also in contact throughout the year with participants in numerous livestock shows, exhibitions and sales. These venues offer excellent outreach opportunities to a wide range of livestock owners.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is a major outreach partner in that information can be shared through their Cooperative Extension offices in every county. Outreach and education efforts also include the constituents of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

The Florida Traceability Coordinating Group includes industry representatives who are key contacts with producer groups. Livestock market owners represent the needs of their customers who may not personally participate in meetings of the Traceability Group. These market customers will include producers of all sizes and interests.

Meetings of the Animal Disease Traceability Working Group are advertised in trade journals and the Florida Administrative Register. The meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited to participate.

Industry has not been quick to recognize the need for the larger ADT program of birth to slaughter as insurance in case of a nebulous outbreak. Industry is looking for incentives to justify “buy in” to benefits of electronic identification and capture/transfer of data. Value added programs can be a motivation for industry to adopt the technology and see tangible benefits.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Florida’s record-keeping of interstate movements is greatly enhanced by our system of Agricultural Interdiction Stations which closely monitor interstate commerce.

The FDACS Monthly and Annual Reports show:

- Number of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and other interstate movement documents for movement into Florida
- Number of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and other interstate movement documents for movement out of Florida
- Numbers of animals by species and class for all interstate movements
- Interstate Certificates of Veterinary inspection are searchable by several parameters including:
 - Species
 - State of origin and destination
 - Date issued
 - Indicator of whether official ID is included
- Volume and distribution of official identification devices is monitored and recorded in a USDA database (AINMs).
- Data for all program disease work shows the numbers of traces initiated and the numbers of successful traces

V ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Maintain Current Animal Disease Traceability Infrastructure
 - Continue Premises Identification and Registration
 - Assist stakeholders in obtaining Official identification
- Enhance Current Traceability Capability
 - Assist transition of accredited veterinarians to electronic data capture and transfer
 - Migrate paper and share drive files into searchable databases
- Optimize the Acquisition and Search Capability of Animal Disease Traceability Data
 - Capture distribution and utilization of Official Identification
 - Maintain animal movement data in a searchable database
- Implement an outreach plan

- Continue Industry Outreach and Involvement Through All Possible Means
- Further Refine Tracing Capabilities and Procedures
 - Increase the utilization of official identification in Florida livestock
 - Prepare livestock producers, markets, and shippers to meet future interstate movement requirements and to better insure traceability

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Objective 1 – Maintain Current Animal Disease Traceability Infrastructure

Five core components of Florida’s Traceability program are identified:

1. Animal Disease Traceability Working Group
 - AITC Sub-Committee for Animal Disease Traceability
 - Conduit to share information with producers throughout the industry
 - Seeks input from all industry segments
 - Meetings are open to the public
2. Premises Registration
 - Continue Premises Registration
 - Maintain and Update data in Premises Management system
 - Register additional premises through all means available
3. Implementation of the Florida Cattle Identification Rule
 - Producer Education to facilitate compliance
 - Enforcement of the Rule
 - Assist producers in obtaining Official ID devices
4. Increase Search capability for existing records
 - Develop system(s) to make paper files searchable electronically
 - Encourage utilization of electronic data collection and storage
5. Increase Individual Animal Identification in Florida Livestock
 - Ensure that records are maintained for all tags distributed
 - Network with owners of captured individual animal movement data
 - Encourage the utilization of electronic identification devices for official identification

Objective 2 – Enhance Current Traceability Capability

Florida has documented effective response in foreign or program animal disease traceability. Examples of past challenges include: Equine Herpes Virus, Contagious Equine Metritis, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Equine

Infectious Anemia, Pseudorabies, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in sport cattle, Bovine TB in a large dairy herd, and traces of market cattle reactors.

Time required for response to traces depends on level of priority for each case. Florida has proven its ability to respond rapidly when circumstances warrant. Efforts are more focused on completeness and attention to detail than on speed.

The FDACS Annual Report records foreign animal disease traces for all program disease work. This data shows the numbers of traces initiated and the numbers of successful traces. These cases are entered into the EMRS.

Under cooperative agreements, Florida has established a distribution methodology and record capture system for official NUES “bright” tags. Participation by producers and veterinarians has increased significantly since official identification for movement is required. Distribution of these tags at no cost to the producer requires additional resources for tag distribution and record-keeping.

DAI continues to explore mechanisms to facilitate electronic transmission of more traceability data and migration to databases which connect to the AHER system.

Objective 3 – Optimize the Acquisition and Search Capability of Animal Disease Traceability Data

Florida has increased efforts to enhance electronic accessibility of traceability data associated with program disease work. Florida continues to support standardized traceability data entry of animal movement data into electronically searchable format. Florida continues to work with USDA to develop an automated system which specifically addresses animal disease traceability, including working with USDA ADT leads on various modernization projects and serve as beta testers for these new systems. Florida will monitor compliance with federal requirements.

Test records for program disease work are recorded in the USDA databases which can be searched electronically. Florida is a consistent and successful user of these systems. This information can be searched to determine numbers of cases and numbers of animals. Implementation of CVI Central system, which does allow for the entry of movement data, provides a means for data capture that can be critical to successful traceability.

Efforts will be made to increase the utilization of Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) for electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVI) and to facilitate the utilization of electronic database by

practitioners. Other eCVI options are also shared with practitioners and utilization of eCVI has slowly increased. This will continue to require one-on-one assistance at the offices of practitioners who are involved in the interstate movement of livestock. Adoption of the electronic OCVI systems by veterinary practitioners has been slowly progressing. Many practitioners have expressed interest, but they require IT assistance and incentives to make investments in this technology. Increases have been incremental, and this program will require continued effort to help veterinary practitioners be successful in using the system.

Objective 4 – Implement an Outreach Plan to Include Accredited Veterinarians, Livestock Producers, Livestock Markets, and Producers of all Sectors.

Outreach will be needed to explain USDA plans for rule implementation and state actions to help producers meet traceability requirements.

Efforts will focus on outreach to make producers aware of the requirements for Official Identification. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to maintain a premises registration database. Additional emphasis will be placed on outreach and education to enable livestock producers to meet traceability requirements for implementation of state and federal regulations. State personnel will explain the shift to a state-tribal based system and the need for development of a plan to enhance traceability and potentially respond to new regulations that are enacted.

Specific outreach will continue to private veterinarians serving the cattle sector. Outreach to and through USDA Accredited Veterinarians will foster understanding of traceability by veterinarians and equip them to be animal identification resources for their customers. Program managers will be involved in training practitioners and their technicians in utilization of the VSPS. This will include the training and incentives to have data entry of OCVI information through eCVI data entry for shipments with inclusion of official identification.

Outreach will include training of FDACS Agricultural Law Enforcement personnel at the FDACS Interdiction Stations to capture entry and export data. Improvements to the technology available at Interdiction Stations will improve the percentage of information captured.

Information is being provided to producers about identification methods which meet the requirements for official ID. Tags have been manufactured and recorded through an approved AIN manager to ensure data capture of correlated producer premises identification numbers and assigned tag numbers.

Livestock market owners are represented on the ADT Working Group and are included in outreach efforts.

General outreach will continue to the extent possible with allowances for changes in state DAI budgets and Federal Cooperative Agreement funding. Priorities will include maintenance of premises identification infrastructure, premises renewals, and providing timely and accurate information to all stakeholders.

Outreach will include initiatives to encourage producers who have previously registered their premises to update their premises records as needed. DAI will continue to engage producers and industry stakeholders to seek feedback for improving traceability.