

ADVANCING ADT: ROAD MAP FOR OHIO

A Three-Year Plan

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health is charged with protecting and promoting the health of Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. In Ohio, we recognize the importance of being able to trace where diseased and at-risk animals are, and have been, as rapidly as possible to prevent additional animals from being exposed. We want to find the most efficient ways to capture the information and reduce the number of producers and animals who may be impacted when a disease incident occurs. Our ADT program includes cross cutting components from our state livestock dealer licensing and animal disease programs, including slaughter surveillance of Ohio livestock to maintain our consistent state and disease-free statuses.

Ohio is rich in the variety of livestock industries active within our state including poultry, swine, beef, dairy, goats, and sheep. We work with stakeholders in adhering to the ADT regulations while trying to minimize impact on the speed of commerce. Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and USDA Veterinary Services (VS) Ohio understand that not all livestock facilities are the same, and therefore monitoring at each may look different. However, the difficulty in minimizing the impact an animal disease may have is complicated by three factors; the volume of livestock at facilities throughout the state, commingling of livestock from multiple sources, and the rapid movement of animal groups out of the concentration point to locations throughout the country.

This ADT roadmap outlines our intended enhancement of our traceability infrastructure for the 2022-2025 timeline. Our priorities for advancing Ohio's ADT program are discussed in further detail in section V of this roadmap. Should funding be approved Ohio aims to set up and secure a state Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator to enhance and oversee our ADT program. Such a position would allow for a more dedicated focus on advancing Ohio's ADT program. Starting this year and building each sequential year Ohio plans to focus on promoting the use of RFID tags. Targeted industry groups include producers, county fairs, and our livestock markets. The planned focus of 2025 is improving and advancing the IT component of Ohio's ADT program. Ohio is aware this is a component of our ADT program that needs to be strengthened. Our ADT working group has already reached out to other states to help gain insight on how this portion of our program can be improved upon. Having an ADT coordinator would provide an invaluable driving force to implement needed improvements. We are committed to improving our data capturing methods as well as data sharing abilities to rapidly identify the origin of diseased livestock along with any location exposed animals may have been moved. We plan to continue our monitoring of livestock facilities to improve compliance and streamline the application of official identification and movement documentation. Our focus of all activities will be to ensure that animals are officially identified as required, that they move interstate with required documentation, and that the identification devices are removed and/or recorded at termination points as required. We will continue to partner with our livestock marketing stakeholders in identifying critical points in their systems and developing improvements that will make our state traceability better.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services Ohio office (VS-Ohio) are the primary constituents tasked with implementing animal disease traceability in the State of Ohio. We often work in conjunction with several external entities to ensure that traceability is achieved. Some of the external constituents include: other divisions within ODA (i.e., Meat Inspection and Dairy), USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service, county 4-H extension offices, livestock markets/auctions, and state industry/commodity organizations (i.e., Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Ohio Poultry Association). The groups listed above will work in a collaborative manner to ensure that livestock moving into and out of the state of Ohio will be compliant with Animal Disease Traceability requirements.

Traceability has the capability to make a distinct difference in our ability to quickly identify and respond to an animal disease emergency, and therefore positively affect the industries that we serve. Traceability data allows ODA and VS-Ohio to efficiently and effectively manage reportable and program diseases. Testing history and farm/herd/flock statuses can readily be found using available databases that collect traceability data. In addition to the everyday activities that are conducted within ODA and VS Ohio, including monitoring compliance with Ohio's Dealer Law (ORC 943), traceability data can influence policy and trade practices; and plays a vital role in interstate and international export.

Animal disease traceability is a priority for ODA and VS-Ohio, and we will continue to work together to advance our position on this national issue. An internal working group, consisting of ODA and VS-Ohio personnel, has been formed and is currently meeting regularly to discuss ways to promote RFID tags, provide support to our newly designated tag distributors, create relationships with other state ADT staff, conceptualize ways to improve and advance Ohio's ADT program and make necessary revisions to the ADT Roadmap.

2.2 Where are we now?

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) is defined as the ability to track animal movements using business and animal marketing records and identification. Traceability is measured by the accuracy, specificity, and speed in being able to determine movements of diseased, exposed or at-risk animals, in an effort to minimize the number of producers included in a disease investigation. Several of the standards set forth by disease programs like brucellosis, scrapie, and tuberculosis combined with the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) requirements, and the Ohio livestock dealer licensing

program and import regulations, provide parameters that help us measure progress. Many of Ohio's disease programs and regulations work hand in hand supporting ADT regulations and goals. While the desired end result is meeting the requirements, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Division of Animal Health is continually looking to improve the way we capture ADT pertinent information into an accessible electronic format.

Coordination in Ohio is based on our working relationship with our area APHIS Veterinary Services staff. Joint communication and coordination occur routinely between Ohio's Assistant State Veterinarian, Agriculture Inspection Manager, Animal Identification Coordinator (AIC) and federal Epidemiologist to monitor policies and activities of both state and federal field staff. The State Veterinarian and Area Veterinarian in Charge provide valuable oversight in all disease trace-back or trace-forward investigations. Monitoring of auction markets, exhibitions, and dealer activities occurs seamlessly between our state and federal personnel. Ohio's 88 counties are divided amongst both state and federal employees with the majority of work (regardless of being state or federal run programs) being performed by the Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) and Animal Health Technician (AHT) assigned to that county.

Presently we perform regular monitoring of livestock movements through marketing channels, market/dealer record audits, Scrapie snapshots, TB traces, and rendering and slaughter plant inspections to assess compliance with the ADT regulations. We check to ensure records and official Identification are present to allow traceability in the event of a disease concern or situation. Priority is placed for personnel to be in attendance at regular market sale days and other points of commingling. This allows for not only monitoring activities to check for compliance, but also provides the platform to educate market personnel and livestock dealers in recognizing when official ID and movement documentation are required.

Normal business hours for ODA and VS are from 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday. There is an emergency "on call" system in place though if trace information is needed outside of normal hours.

During the past few years we have revamped our ADT working group. The primary focus of the working group has been the promotion and distribution of the free RFID tags provided by USDA for replacement cattle. The group has worked to set up several of Ohio's industry stakeholders, such as Ohio Cattleman's and Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) as tag distributors. This allows these commodity groups to have more direct access to the intended recipients of these tags and more efficiently distribute these tags. Tag applicators were purchased with supplemental ADT funding and those are also being distributed to help producers apply the free RFID tags and reduce the extra out of pocket cost associated with applying these tags. From July 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022 ODA has distributed approximately 12,660 RFID tags to producers and accredited veterinarians. Tags distributed directly from the

warehouse and tags distributed by Ohio's tag distributors would be in addition to this. 15,000 tags have been designated to our current tag distributors during this time frame. We expect this number to continue to grow as Ohio's tag distributors refine their promotion and distribution of RFID tags to producers and as Ohio continues to promote the availability of RFID tags.

ODA's IT structure consists of multiple databases, electronic spreadsheets, and utilization of software programs- primarily USAHerds. Starting in 2015, data from Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs), TB test records, and Brucellosis test records and vaccination certificates began getting entered into the USAHerds database. Individual official IDs along with scans or uploads of the electronic certificates, statements and test records are also being recorded in USAHerds. This database is capable of locating an animal entered into the system and can also generate numerous reports that are beneficial when the need to trace animal movements or events/sightings occurs. A separate access database is used to capture TB testing response rates by accredited veterinarians.

We also utilize excel spreadsheets to record distribution of health certificates, and distribution of official identification tags to accredited veterinarians, approved tagging sites, and producers. The state uses the national premise allocator (through USA Herds) to assign state premise identification numbers to everyone who requests to receive official ID tags. Accredited veterinarians report further distribution of official ID tags to the state office within 7 days of the transfer. Challenges we face getting these distributed tags entered into Animal Identification Management System (AIMS) include lack of human resources to enter the data and the fact that official tags distributed directly from the Kansas City National warehouse to accredited veterinarians or ODA are not automatically present in the AIMS system. To date, our capturing of this additional distribution in AIMS is impeded by the fact that NUES tag shipments from the Kansas City National warehouse to accredited veterinarians or ODA are not automatically present in the AIMS system. All new veterinarian accounts being created in the warehouse system are being submitted with assigned premise ID to enable AIMS entry.

In an effort to help encourage accredited veterinarians to utilize electronic CVI platforms ODA started implementing a fee for hardcopy animal health certificate booklets in October of 2021. We took several measures to make veterinarians aware of this change as well as encouraging the utilization of electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVIs) including participating in OVMA's Fully Vetted Series podcast and production of a video shared on ODA's YouTube page. This video explained the implemented fee, encouraged utilization of electronic CVIs, explained the importance and relevance of eCVIs in regard to ADT and demonstrated how to fill out an electronic CVI. At this time we also started collecting data on how many paper health certificate

booklets were being ordered. This will allow us to see if our efforts create the desired effect of decreased hardcopy paper booklets ordered and increased utilization of eCVIs. Currently, with every large animal CVI booklet ordered ODA sends handouts that remind veterinarians of the requirements of sending in hard copy paper CVIs and a document listing the benefits of eCVI utilization and the various platforms that are available to Ohio accredited veterinarians.

Federal funding has a direct impact on how Ohio can advance its animal disease traceability activities. With budgetary restraints, it is challenging to complete the needed data entry without people in positions to carry-out these duties. Additional funding and resources would significantly aide in Ohio's ability to move our ADT program forward. Furthermore, as discussed in section V in more detail, securing an ODA ADT coordinator position would provide a resource that would more collectively unify and advance Ohio's ADT program efforts. We have made progress with promoting and distributing RFID tags but would like to continue this momentum. Additional funding and resources to aide in integrating RFID tags and technology into other animal industry sectors such as county fairs would prove to be beneficial as there is an interest already present and in doing so would preemptively engage some of Ohio's future producers with RFID technology.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- Dealer law allows enhanced traceability efforts through required licensing, audits, and inspections
- State Meat, Dairy, and Food Safety Inspection Programs
- Strong Extension/4-H programs and history of cooperation with State and Federal
- Interaction with Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
- Interaction with OVMA, Ohio Dairy Veterinarians Group, and Ohio Pork Producers Council
- USAHerds, USA LIMS, eCVIs, mCVIs, and other IT systems available
- Animal agriculture contributes \$109 billion to State's economy
- Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division and Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory co-located
- Interaction with Ohio Poultry Association through work with Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program
- ORC/OAC laws in place
- MOU between USDA, ODA, and GIPSA
- Cooperation/collaboration between ODA & USDA
- ODA implemented fees for paper-CVI's, which has increased eCVI utilization

Weaknesses

- Limited personnel resources to monitor animal movements
- Limited personnel to enter ADT data
- No fulltime ADT Coordinator for State
- Some accredited veterinarians still using paper-based CVIs and very limited IT usage, such as RFID or MIMS.
- No mandatory ID or record keeping requirements for intrastate movement, except for sheep and goats
- Lack of resources to supply and distribute RFIDs and other official IDs
- Voluntary premises registration
- Data/information sharing difficulties due to a lack of IT portal between State and Federal systems
- Insufficient office space for ODA personnel

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities

- Standardize inspection and enforcement
- Increase animal marketability for OH producers
- Increase cooperation and collaboration with industry
- Increase use of currently available technologies
- Quickly identify ownership of displaced animals
- Improve data sharing between states and stakeholders

Threats

- Swap meets, sales (including internet/virtual) and exhibitions
- Turnover of personnel within cooperator and stakeholder groups
- Non-compliant animal movements
- Complex or unorthodox movements
- Movements without proper documentation (CVIs, OSS's or permits) and/or identification
- Incomplete distribution of required documentation to State
- Variable state import requirements
- Unidentified displaced animals
- Insufficient knowledge of identification and animal movement requirements
- Lack of acceptance for purchase and use of RFID tags on the farm before animals are moved as best practice. Economics of purchasing the tags and infrastructure are frequently cited as a barrier.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

Human resources

- The following office positions have some responsibility within animal traceability: Asst. State Veterinarian, Ag Inspection Mgr., Business Opr. Mgr, (2) Licensure Examiner, and Customer Service Asst.
- The following ODA, Animal Health field staff positions: (4) Veterinary Administrators and (8) Animal Health Inspectors (AHI/AHT).
- The following USDA, APHIS, VS field staff positions: (5) Veterinarians, (1) Epidemiology Officer (position currently vacant) (2) Animal Health Technicians and (1) Animal Identification Coordinator.

Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information

- Information from CVIs is being entered, scanned and uploaded into USAHerds. Currently a large volume of traceability data, including premises, ICVI, state-disease program data, is contained within USAHerds. Official disease work including brucellosis and tuberculosis test data and official vaccination data is entered and held in USAHerds. Traceability data can be uploaded into USAHerds when provided to ODA from outside sources. Data can also be exported out of USAHerds for dissemination to necessary agencies and officials. Prior to implementation of this system (USAHerds began in October 2013) paper copies were retained for 2 yrs and filed by the month they were received. The current year was kept in the office and the previous year stored off site.
- Animal and TB test information is being entered into USAHerds to identify the farm on which the animal was tested. TB test charts are kept in house for a minimum of 5 years. Paper charts are filed alphabetically by owners name and year.
- Brucellosis test charts are stored in the ADDL USALims data base. A paper copy is scanned and attached to the accession pertaining to the testing completed. This information is kept for a minimum of 3 years.
- Brucellosis vaccination certificates are stored on site for 7 years. All information on these certificates is captured by entering into USAHerds.
- Animal identification application and distribution records kept for a minimum of 5 years.

Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.

- Data is captured via USAHerds & USALims. Current storage space is adequate to maintain this information.

- ODAs IT security is composed of a watch guard perimeter firewall.
- All data stored on ODA servers is backed-up nightly on site and backed up bi-weekly offsite.

Automated data capture capability

- ODA currently has the ability to automatically capture data for samples tested at ADDL only.
- Data from electronic CVI's transfers into USAHerds.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The mission of the Ohio Department of Agriculture is to protect Ohio citizens by ensuring the safety of the state's food supply, to maintain the health of Ohio's animals and plant life, and to create economic opportunities for Ohio's farmers, food processors and agribusinesses.

3.2 Mission Statement

Protecting the Health of Livestock and Poultry: The Division of Animal Health is charged with protecting and promoting the health of Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. Responsibilities include livestock and poultry testing and inspection, licensing, controlling animal diseases in Ohio, and providing veterinary diagnostic laboratory services. In addition, the division is responsible for supervision of the exhibition livestock testing. The ODA Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The laboratory provides credible results, which assist veterinarians and producers in herd health management and enhance the global marketability of Ohio's livestock.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic Goals

- To implement, promote, and enhance a State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State of Ohio and USDA standards.
- Increase the use of eCVI technology and reduce paper CVI's used in Ohio
- Increase the use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient. Also increase the use of RFID technology in the animal industries to increase efficiency and accuracy of records.
- Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter.

4.2 Programmatic Goals (Objectives)

- Create a position that would oversee Ohio's ADT program; an Ohio ADT coordinator
- Continue outreach & education with an emphasis on utilization of RFID technology, promoting the availability of free RFID tags for replacement cattle while available
- Support and encourage utilization of RFID technology and RFID tags at animal concentration points such as Ohio's county fairs and livestock auctions
- Continue to seek out and create relationships with industry stakeholders that may prove to be ideal tag distributors. Support our current stakeholders that are designated tag distributors.
- Continue applying policy strategies to reduce paper CVI use and promote eCVI utilization
- Consistent implementation of ADT standards
- Consistent enforcement of ADT standards
- Increased data input efficiency utilizing ODA's current IT systems
- Increased cooperation/collaboration amongst state ADT coordinators

4.3 Animal Disease Traceability Performance Measures

Traceability Performance Measures (TPM) activities involve officially identified cattle and are chosen from a variety of sources including CVIs, test charts, brucellosis vaccination records, actual traces that were received from other states, and cattle sighted at livestock concentration points (within Ohio and outside of Ohio).

When possible, out of state official IDs are forwarded to the state of origin, in order that they may use the ID to fulfill one of their TPM quota's.

TPM activities are initiated by ADT staff after coordinating that ODA personnel are available to work on the performance measure since these activities are timed. We follow the outlined process established by the ADT staff in effort to have consistent measures nationally. The length of time spent on a specific TPM and whether the trace is successfully completed is recorded. Ohio's results are provided to us and we are able to compare them to results of other participating states but individual state results are no longer being provided. For the previous two years (2020 and 2021) the average the time for Ohio to complete a TPM was 0.26 hours. Ohio has consistently been at or faster than average on the time it takes for us to complete our TPM activities.

There are currently four TPM activities used nationally to test each state's ability to trace applied official ID and animal movement records. State quotas for the number of each TPM to perform, were set based on the cattle population within the state. TPM activities 1 and 2 involve tracing the official Identification device distribution records; while TPM activities 3 and 4 involve tracing the animal movement records. The focuses of each of the four TPM activities are listed below.

- In what State was an imported animal officially identified?
- Where in your state was the animal officially identified?
- From what state was an animal shipped?
- From what location in your state was an exported animal shipped?

ODA will report any compliance issue related to the tracing of TPM exercises to the OH AVIC to be included in the VS quarterly ADT Enforcement Action Summary Report

4.4 Data requirements

Details on how Ohio acquires, organizes, stores, retrieves and uses ADT data has already been discussed in sections 2.2 and 2.5. Also discussed in section 2.2 is Ohio's recent introduction of a fee for hardcopy CVIs. Ohio accepts CVIs and Owner Shipper Statements (OSS) for interstate animal movement documents and generally NUES and RFID for official ear tag identification. Ohio permits swine movement in accordance with OAC 901:1-17-09. See Ohio's import rule: [Chapter 901:1-17 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Data will be shared/ provided to other States, Tribes, Territories and USDA upon request.

4.5 Information technology plan

Ohio's broad goal is continual progression towards automating or digitizing much of the ADT activities performed by office and field staff. Specific objectives include:

- Develop and implement electronic-based systems for health documents (I.e., TB, Brucellosis, EIA, etc.).
- Develop and plan for a forward-facing portal for use by industry and accredited veterinarians to submit regulatory forms, test charts, applications for license, secure online payment, etc. as part of the long term plan for ADT and IT.
- Develop and deliver information systems improvements to digitize the records created and delivered to program staff from field activities (I.e., NOV's, dealer records, dealer audit documents, etc.).

- Develop and deliver information systems improvement to enhance digital applications for licenses and records sharing and upload/download for ADT and Livestock Dealer activity, such as dealer sales records, animal movement records, animal identification records, bills of sale, etc.
 - Benefits to the above listed objectives include:
 - reduced numbers of paper documents processed by ODA
 - Increased processing efficiency by staff
 - Improved data management by reducing time spend manually transcribing data into USAHERDS
 - Increased data accuracy and reduced clerical or legibility errors, which promotes traceability
 - Reduced transit time for dealer records delivery to program staff and reduced time and resources spent by field staff driving and performing low-productivity work in order to acquire records

If Ohio secures a state ADT coordinator, their knowledge and expertise, as well as the relationships they would form with other states, could provide valuable insight in how Ohio can enhance and more efficiently utilize our USAHerds program.

4.6 Resource requirements

The greatest resource Ohio needs in order to implement the roadmap is a state ADT coordinator position. Securing this resource will in turn help precipitate additional goals and objectives outlined in the roadmap. An ADT coordinator would spearhead moving Ohio's ADT program forward. A well-qualified and knowledgeable person would be able to enhance and coordinate our education efforts, provide training to our current field staff and most importantly improve our data capture and storage techniques. While we have several staff members that are knowledgeable and responsible for components of Ohio's ADT program we lack the single source person to coordinate our efforts. Recently our ADT working group members have reached out to other states to gain insight and ideas on improving our ADT program; a state coordinator could continue to build and strengthen those relationships and others. There are a plethora of resources available and a coordinator would be able to singularly focus on utilizing those to improve Ohio's ADT program.

There is some cross training and overlap of responsibility when it comes to ADT related tasks but we do not have a strong continuing operation plan in place. A state coordinator would again provide benefit with a COOP. If a central person was knowledgeable and capable of all components of our

ADT program and several field and office staff were trained and performing various individual parts of the program then we would have the added protection of at least 2 people at minimum being familiar with any given aspect of Ohio's ADT program.

4.7 Organizational needs

Continuing with the resurfacing need for a state coordinator; there would be dramatic benefit to having a single central person leading our ADT efforts. Currently our ADT program spreads the responsibilities over several office and field staff. While this current organizational style has been in place for many years attempting to support Ohio's ADT program- having a coordinator would increase efficiency and allow for greater forward progression.

4.7.1 Executive support

Current executive authorities are aware of the importance of ADT and support the efforts made to improve Ohio's ADT program. Administrative authorities are updated with any major accomplishments of the ADT working group and are frequently included in meetings to discuss improvement strategies for the program.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Ohio can improve the coordination and oversight of ADT procedures with the implementation of an ADT coordinator. Ohio does not have an ADT advisory group. Currently any brainstorming and executing ideas to improve ADT measures is being conducted by the ADT working group. These tasks are in addition to their routine field and office duties. Plans are then presented to the State and Assistant State Veterinarians and the AVIC for feedback. Feedback is also gathered from field staff if appropriate. While the working group does meet regularly it is inconsistent and dependent on present situation and workload. Members of the working group have started to look at other state's ADT programs and created relationships with those personnel. Discussions have uncovered several ways Ohio could improve our ADT program.

4.7.3 Policy

Ohio's ADT policies align with the ADT general standards document and traceability goals. The close working relationship and coordination between our state and federal field and office staff helps promote aligning policies. See links for more specifics on Ohio's applicable regulations: [Chapter 941 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) and [Chapter 943 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

- By implementing policy at ODA (2021) to apply fees for paper CVI booklets, OH created a shift and increase in eCVI use, aligning with ADT general standards
- ODA plans to develop policy to develop and deliver electronic information systems, forcing producers and licensees to use these systems to promote agency objectives and ADT goals

4.7.4 Staffing

- Currently we have 4-5 office staff, 4 field veterinarians, and 8 animal health inspectors working directly with ADT in various aspects.
- Various qualifications of staff are needed. Those in the office are trained in USAHERDS and database management. Field staff are trained in regulations regarding proper ID and have necessary knowledge of the industry and relationships to move ADT forward.
- To best implement the current plan and future goals of ADT in Ohio a state ADT Coordinator is vital for an organized and cohesive effort. The current office staff and field personnel will still implement various aspects.
- Many human resources are currently being leveraged to carry out the ADT plan and this ability has reached capacity. All of the current resources are also tasked with many other functions and coordination and efficiency are needed for the overall effort and IT management.
- Professional credentials and certification are not an issue currently. Training in various programs and regulations as well as proper onboarding of new staff is necessary for continued success.
- Job description for the ADT coordinator position is in progress with input from similar positions in other states and the needs that we know we have in Ohio. The job descriptions for the current supporting roles include the ADT duties that are assigned.
- ADT information is an add-on “coordinated by committee” basis currently. Various aspects of Ohio’s ADT program are accomplished by several staff members. While we can manage our ADT program in this manner Ohio is aware that efforts could be more cohesive and feel that could be achieved with an ADT state coordinator. Such a position would be able to focus solely on Ohio’s ADT program and in doing so be able to move the efforts and goals of ADT within the state forward. Primary goals include those determined by this plan with input from supervisors and field/office staff.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

Ohio receives federal financial support through the ADT cooperative agreement. While this money helps fund Ohio's ADT program, it falls short of covering the expenses incurred from baseline ADT activities performed by office and field staff. Ohio's current ADT award does not even fully cover the duties performed by one office staff member. Remaining ADT responsibilities are funded by State dollars, which strains the current budget for ODA's Animal Health Division. The ADT agreement (FY22) shows state contributions to be in excess of \$97,000 dollars, with APHIS contributing \$87,991 dollars. ODA will see a reduction in state budget dollars for FY 23 by 2.9%, equating to ~\$156,000.00 dollars. Ohio has requested additional ADT money to fund a state ADT coordinator position along with additional resources such as RFID readers to be loaned to county fairs. See section 5.1 below for more details.

As mentioned, ODA is currently facing a 2.9% reduction in General Revenue Fund in FY23. This reduction will necessitate the sacrifice of several things including funds currently used for ADT initiatives (in-kind costs). Ohio does not want to lose ground in the recent forward progression of our ADT program. For ADT FY 23, ODA requested an additional award of \$9000.00 in federal support to maintain current operations, plans, and program support due to this 2.9% reduction in state GRF funds. This additionally helps maintain support for current AHI and VMO salaries and mileage to support and learn about ADT efforts. ODA also requested an additional award of \$149,350.00 towards staff and salary support for a full-time ADT State Coordinator.

In order to support the interest of RFID technology use in Ohio's county fairs we have estimated the need of \$32,250.00 for the purchase of forty (40) wand readers for use in the fair sector and \$1000.00 for hardware support (laptops, tablets, etc.) to enhance ADT activities.

Further integrating RFID technology in selected Ohio livestock markets with the installation of two panel RFID readers we are estimating \$26,160.00 for the cost of those devices.

Ohio has focused on promoting and distributing the free RFID tags available for replacement cattle by the federal movement. In all of our endeavors regarding the RFID tags we have discovered the interest and need for RFID tags not limited to replacement cattle. An additional \$50,000.00 to support the cost of purchasing RFID tags for uses other than replacement cattle, such as swine, county fairs, etc. would prove beneficial to moving Ohio's ADT program- more specifically the integration of RFID technology- forward.

Additional funding will be required to make improvements to Ohio's IT component to our ADT program. It requires time and money to move from a primarily paper-based data system to one

that is more electronic and automated in nature. While we may never be able to be completely paperless it is a good step to be able to provide electronic versions of any ADT related forms/health papers. Automating field and dealer activities and records will require further supplemental funding.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1. Accredited veterinarians

Accredited veterinarians play an important role in regard to animal disease traceability. It is imperative that we keep them informed of any changing guidelines or regulations involving ADT. Through our partners at USDA we have access to an email and mailing listserv containing Ohio's accredited veterinarians. We are able to notify accredited veterinarians by that method. With the implementation of a purchase fee for our large animal health certificates we also send out a few handouts with the certificates that remind veterinarians of their responsibility to submit CVIs in a timely manner and encourage utilization of eCVIs and some different software platform options. There has been discussion about the availability of a new and free eCVI software program. Once that program is available, we will make efforts to notify Ohio's accredited veterinarians. For the past couple of years ODA's field veterinarians have had a presence at a variety of conferences including the Midwest Veterinary Conference held annually in Columbus. At this conference and others, we have the opportunity to talk with veterinarians one on one, answer questions, inform them of any pertinent changes, and provide handouts. ODA's Communication department has collaborated with several other departments including our Animal Health division to spread information via podcasts, social media, and videos uploaded to a YouTube channel. This provides an additional outlet for outreach and education. To monitor a veterinarian's ability to quickly provide information from a tag they distributed in the event of a disease outbreak ODA has started performing mock tag trace exercises with tags that were distributed to accredited veterinarians. During these exercises veterinarian clinics are contacted and asked to provide information on a tag

that was distributed to them. If they are unable to do so then recommendations are made to improve their record keeping of tags distributed from their clinic. Veterinarians do provide a vital role in ensuring that animals receiving health certificates or being tested for regulatory diseases are properly identified; their role in providing tags cannot be undervalued. Veterinarians also provide a good resource to producers for information about ADT and its importance as well RFID tag and technology use. Animal ID/ traceability is part of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) core orientation for graduating veterinarians. Both ODA and USDA VS staff presents the NVAP material to both DVM students and practitioners. There is an entire section that focuses on ADT. In 2021 14 courses were taught, with 192 practitioners in attendance and 140 veterinary students involved.

4.7.6.2. Slaughter plants

Slaughter facilities in Ohio are routinely visited during Blood Tissue Collection (BTC) inspections and reporting. Discussion and review of animal movement and identification can occur during these visits. These visits also allow us to continue to initiate and foster the relationships the agencies have with slaughter facilities.

4.7.6.3. Industry as a whole

Ohio does not have an ADT advisory committee. As mentioned in an earlier section, our working group is primarily responsible for orchestrating outreach activities. We rely on various methods to reach out to Industry including in person meetings/ outreach, virtual meetings, email, mailings, website, and even social media. Currently species specific movement documents along with other ADT information can be found on ODA's website. However, there is room for improvement as the information may not be considered easy to find by many. Ohio's collaboration with USDA VS- Ohio

and the other entities described in section 2.1 provides many resource opportunities to Industry.

For Producers

- ODA & USDA staff are available to attend meetings to facilitate outreach to stakeholders upon invitation
- We can have a booth at the Farm Science Review, and handouts can be made available at the Ohio Quarter Horse Congress, the Ohio Dairy Expo, the Ohio Beef Expo, the Ohio Swine Health Symposium, and other venues in Ohio
- The importance of ADT will continue to be emphasized at commodity meetings and through appropriate committees such as small ruminant, cervid, swine health, cattle health and others
- Ohio industry includes all livestock species, as well as equine, cervid & camelids
- Continue to disseminate ADT information, such as where producers can acquire tags- through ODA or their Accredited Veterinarian (AV)
- Continue to encourage and facilitate premises registration
- USDA/ODA field personnel can make contact and provide handouts to fair boards, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) meetings, cattle shows, grazing conferences, and veterinary clinics.

For Livestock Markets and Dealers

- Auction markets and concentration yards are licensed as dealers in Ohio
- Continue efforts in registering markets and dealers as official tagging sites
- ODA & USDA AHTs & VMOs routinely visit to discuss and review animal movements and ID
- Continual records review and audits of animal movements and ID
- Continual communication with managers & employees regarding ADT requirements
- Joint ODA/USDA meetings are held regularly to ensure established oversight procedures (such as the

market inspection checklist) are being conducted consistently

- All of Ohio's markets are tagging sites, therefore increased education is conducted at these facilities and for the employees in regard to animal movement and ID responsibilities
- ADT information is posted at these facilities
- Meet with dealers and markets with updated ADT info.

For Undeserved Communities

- May utilize OSU Extension (The Ohio State University Extension) and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) to assist with information dissemination
- May utilize small farm conferences to assist with information dissemination

4.8. Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Movement documents, such as CVIs and Owner Shipper Statements (OSS) are required to be provided to the Department within 7 days of issuance. Import and Export ICVIs and OSS are monitored by office staff and numbers reported in our ADT workbook each quarter. Compliance issues and number of movement documents that need to be corrected or returned are reported in the workbook as well. Tag types, total numbers, and destination types that are distributed are also reported in our ADT workbook each quarter.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

Ohio's first priority for advancing our ADT program would be to secure a state Animal Disease Traceability coordinator position. We have several people that are knowledgeable about individual pieces of our ADT program but not one single point person, and it is quite clear this is necessary to move our program forward. This position would be responsible for planning, administering, educating, and further energizing our efforts. Ideally someone with an IT or data management background and animal health knowledge would be best suited to coordinate our efforts. This person

would work with all facets of the ADT program and guide the team that is already in place with ODA Animal Health and USDA Veterinary Services to further our goals. An ADT coordinator would be able to help train our field staff regarding RFID technology and provide education and outreach to various stakeholders in the industry- producers, veterinarians, markets, fairs, etc. Without this coordinated effort we find that we are able to make small progresses but lack the overall flow that is necessary to achieve the degree of progress that we desire.

Secondly, our efforts continue to be focused on getting more tags placed in animals and we seek to do that with RFID tags for ease and efficiency of reading and recording information. We are diligently working to phase out metal NUES tags in favor of RFID tags with the focus on our many livestock markets (that are handling large numbers of calves) and through encouragement of use by producers. Ohio is working to supply auction markets with RFID tags for replacement cattle to introduce and showcase this technology; along with those efforts we would also like to install two panel RFID readers in two of our markets. With our livestock market presence, we expose many producers to the capabilities and usefulness of the technology in real time. In turn, our database can use the data to be generated from these sources to much better understand how, when and where animals are moving in our state and beyond.

In looking to other states that have successful ADT programs we realize RFID tags must be available and in use for the rest of the pieces of the puzzle to work. This requires us to have and distribute the tags, reach out to producers, veterinarians and animal concentration points, and support them in applying the tags. We must promote this technology to various groups and meet them where they are. Ohio county fairs are very interested and willing to adopt this technology and we would like to support this effort with the ability to loan out equipment and in some cases staffing to assist. Ohio supports 95 county and independent fairs through the summer and fall months. ODA would like to purchase numerous wand readers and supporting devices to provide on loan to the county fairs. There are many opportunities for RFID technology to be utilized within the fair sector. With focus on fairs and youth we are very much planting seeds for the producers of tomorrow to be familiar and educated about the technology. In order to provide support to our markets and fairs and to demonstrate the true value of RFID technology our field staff needs additional training and education to be experts in these topics. They will then be more equipped to share knowledge on RFID technology and troubleshoot potential issues.

Thirdly, Ohio would like to focus on improving and refining the IT component of our ADT program. Specifically, we would like to enhance electronic data sharing, increase the ADT data we are capturing and streamline its integration into our existing software programs, as well as update the capabilities of our USAHerds program. There are many

opportunities to increase utilization of electronic formatting and submission of health documents, regulatory forms, license applications and other documents and records. See goals described in section 4.5. An ODA ADT coordinator that is knowledgeable in the IT field has the potential to significantly improve Ohio's IT component of our ADT program and take it to the next level. Enhancing electronic sharing of data requires that we not only capture the pertinent data but also put it in a useful form that is readily available. To be able to set an alert for a particular ID or find within a few keystrokes the most recent location of a particular ID could stop many contagious diseases in their tracks. It is not enough to identify the animals and record the location, time and date but this information must be available and in a useful form exactly when needed. Equipment as well as data management and data movement is vital to this goal. Ohio plans policy change to require livestock markets to flow animal movement data into USAHERDS. We aim to provide a forward-facing user portal for veterinarians, producers and industry to directly import data as well. This will improve efficiency and accuracy dramatically.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Resounding with what has already been presented, Ohio seeks to request additional ADT funding to obtain an ADT state coordinator. Securing such a position is crucial to providing a supportive base on which Ohio can continue to build our ADT program and is our highest priority. If the request for additional funding to cover the salary of \$149,350 is approved then Ohio can start the process of creating and then posting the position of an ADT coordinator. Once the position is filled then the newly appointed coordinator can work with the various ODA staff involved with ADT to become familiar with Ohio's ADT program. Moving forward the coordinator can create and build on relationships with other coordinators and ADT experts. Drawing on these relationships and the knowledge and understanding of the coordinator plans can be developed and implemented that will help Ohio's ADT program move forward. The current ADT working group would coordinate with the newly appointed position to help facilitate these goals.

Securing a state coordinator would create a position that could solely focus on animal disease traceability. This would allow our secondary objectives to be accomplished. This roadmap provides direction in the goals Ohio would like to achieve with our ADT program in the coming years. We would like to support our county and independent fairs in utilizing RFID technology. A coordinator would be able to orchestrate loaning and rotating RFID readers to fair contacts as well as being able to provide support in demonstrating how to utilize RFID technology. Ohio would also like to re-evaluate further incorporating RFID technology in our livestock markets with the plan to install two panel readers into two markets to capture EID

data. A coordinator would oversee this endeavor and provide support and knowledge to field staff and livestock market personnel. A coordinator provides a great resource to field staff in regard to training on the use of RFID technology. This person would also provide a valuable asset for brainstorming and implementing ideas to improve our IT portion of the program and help determine ways to continue to move towards digitalization along with more efficient ways to collect and use data.

In Summary Ohio supports a vibrant agricultural industry. Collaboration between ODA and USDA VS Ohio allows for implementation of our animal disease traceability program. Ohio has made progress in the past years advancing our ADT program but is aware of the need for continuous improvement. This roadmap outlines Ohio's strengths, weaknesses, and general concept of how our ADT program is managed. It also provides goals and objectives to move our ADT program forward. A fundamental aspect of enhancing Ohio's ADT program is securing an ADT state coordinator. Such a position could focus solely on the improvement of Ohio's ADT program and accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in this roadmap.