

Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for New Mexico

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

RALPH ZIMMERMAN, DVM

NEW MEXICO STATE VETERINARIAN

NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD

2105 OSUNA RD. NE SOUTH BUILDING, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87113

505-841-6161

Submitted to:

PAUL SCIGLIBAGLIO, DVM

AREA VETERINARIAN FOR NEW MEXICO

VETERINARY SERVICES

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

100 SUN AVE., NE, SUITE 320, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109

505-313-8050

Date: February 3, 2023

Table of Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION	5
2.1 <i>Who are we?</i>	5
2.2 <i>Where are we now?</i>	7
2.3 <i>Strengths and Weaknesses</i>	9
2.4 <i>Opportunities and Threats</i>	9
2.5 <i>Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment</i>	10
III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY	11
3.1 <i>Vision and Mission Statement</i>	11
IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS	12
4.1 <i>Strategic goal(s)</i>	12
4.2 <i>Programmatic goals (objectives)</i>	12
4.3 <i>ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)</i>	13
4.4 <i>Data requirements</i>	14
4.5 <i>Information technology plan</i>	16
4.6 <i>Resource requirements</i>	17
4.7 <i>Organizational needs</i>	17
4.7.1 <i>Executive support</i>	18
4.7.2 <i>Coordination and oversight procedures</i>	18
4.7.3 <i>Policy</i>	18
4.7.4 <i>Staffing</i>	19
4.7.5 <i>Budget requirements</i>	19
4.7.6 <i>Outreach (required to be addressed within the Road Map)</i>	20
4.8 <i>Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity</i>	22
V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY	23
5.1 <i>Ranking of priorities for advancement</i>	23
5.2 <i>Implementation of objectives</i>	23

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the fundamental problem(s) and key elements that this plan addresses?

This animal disease traceability road map outlines New Mexico's plan for continued development of a record keeping and animal identification system designed to trace affected livestock in the event of a disease outbreak affecting the New Mexico livestock industries. Key elements of the plan involve identifying the individuals and contact information of those responsible for movement of covered species and identifying the premises of origin of individually identified animals. Initial major emphasis will be on the beef and dairy cattle industries, although the National Scrapie Surveillance Program ID will continue to be used to monitor sheep and goat movement. Movement of equines will also be monitored via EIA testing forms, use of ICVIs and entry permit numbers.

In New Mexico, the state brand system will be used as the primary form of identification of persons responsible for livestock movement. In addition, the state's livestock inspection system will provide a means of tracing movement of livestock both across state brand inspection districts (intrastate) and across state lines (interstate). Identification of animals will be based on the 840-coded AIN-system where applicable and the National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES). Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) are in place with neighboring states to facilitate movement of animals when accompanied by a Certificate of Brand Inspection or ICVI. New Mexico endorses the use of ICVIs for all livestock crossing state borders. The state will continue to cultivate the excellent working relationship it currently maintains with sovereign nations and neighboring states.

What are the primary benefits?

The New Mexico Traceability Plan will benefit the State's livestock industries by efficiently and accurately identifying affected animals in case of any disease outbreak in this country. The system will allow New Mexico producers to move livestock smoothly across state lines. Livestock movement records will be maintained in a state database.

How does this plan build upon previous efforts to advance animal disease traceability?

New Mexico is a brand state that uses a brand inspection system which is overseen by the New Mexico Livestock Board. This agency is unique in that it houses law enforcement officers, brand inspectors and veterinary services. The team of inspectors continuously patrol and perform inspections around the state to help keep NM livestock free from disease and safe from theft. The Livestock Board includes the Office of the State Veterinarian and runs as a separate agency from the Department of Agriculture. These different services collaborate to prevent the introduction and spread of disease.

How does this plan fit within USDA’s new framework for animal disease traceability?

In the interest of border safety, and traceability on the US side, a Southern Border Port Committee was put together by USDA, APHIS, VS to look at traceability issues, of Mexican origin cattle crossing at New Mexico ports. Through conversation amongst border State Veterinarians, receiving State Veterinarians, Mexican Cattle Union officials and the cattle brokers, a satisfactory system has morphed into place. This is based on the New Mexico Livestock Board inspection system and allows receiving states access to our server to view cattle traveling to their states, at their convenience (24/7 access). It took some tough conversations, and an in-person meeting with the president of the Chihuahua cattle Union in Chihuahua City, but all inspections are based on true and factual destination addresses. This has led to further conversation of EID on Mexican origin cattle, and electronic transfer of information, through the Binational Committee (BNC). At this point in time, cattle from the Mexican state of Chihuahua, and some of the cattle from the Mexican State of Sonora, cross with RFID in place. The infrastructure to capture and relay the individual ID of every head of cattle getting on each truck leaving the ports, is not in place yet so the need for the official export blue tag remains. A true manifest for each load leaving the ports (as opposed to tag ranges listed on and import CVI) would simplify traceability of imported Mexican cattle. Currently, the number of all the 17-30’s (Import CVI’s) that have an animal represented in that load, must be on the inspection form.

How does this plan support animal health information systems within the State/Tribe/Territory?

The 17-30s, imported cattle inspections, brand inspections and ICVIs written by NM accredited veterinarians and out-of-state veterinarians are captured and processed in the New Mexico Livestock Board database and can be readily shared with other state and federal agencies as the need arises. Official ID (blue export tags, NUES tags and RFIDs) are searchable in the state database.

How does this plan support animal health information needs with other States/Tribes/Territories and USDA nationally?

New Mexico supports the free exchange of open information with its trading partners, neighbors, and the federal government. This plan will allow the State to continue to track movement of livestock both within the state and as animals move across state lines. Animals coming off sovereign Tribal land, still need to meet the requirements of New Mexico and receiving states.

What alternatives were explored?

No new alternatives are being explored; however, expansion and implementation of the current methodologies are an integral part of this traceability plan. We are assisting New Mexico producers in taking advantage of APHIS provided EID (Low Frequency Buttons), to encourage expansion of EID prior to it becoming mandatory. With the publication of the “new” ADT rule, we are closer to this goal. If we are going to let industry decide, access to other modalities such as UHF would have been

beneficial. New Mexico has approximately 130 licensed dairy herds, with the largest average herd size (2,357) in the nation. New Mexico is currently ranked 9th in the nation for milk production and 4th in the nation for cheese production. Today, there are more than 1.4 million cattle and over 10,000 cattle ranches in New Mexico. In a state with such large cattle operations, UHF technology might be more beneficial, with more value added.

What are the projected costs for FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025, and benefits?

FY2023:

\$75,000: This cost includes the \$57,000 from the ADT Cooperative Agreement funding from APHIS in addition to costs associated with maintaining IT capabilities, IT personnel and infrastructure in preserving the Animal Disease Traceability system. We expanded and updated the server for our inspection process in 2019 and continue to tweak and expand capabilities in 2023. In June of 2022, our aging main servers (installed October 2015) were replaced with state funding through a onetime allocation of \$227,039. Through our ADT Cooperative agreement, New Mexico has purchased EID readers to have the capability available in all New Mexico inspection districts (26) and available at our livestock auctions. We also have enough readers to supply veterinarians in our State ALIRT (Agriculture Livestock Incident Response Team) program, who are positioned around the state. Thanks to past ADT funding all NMLB inspectors are using new or updated ruggedized laptops for real time information exchange. A portion of our ADT funding is used to replace supplies such as tablets, ruggedized laptops and printers for Livestock Inspectors and Brand Inspectors. Life on the road creates a hostile environment for printers and laptops. As was done for replacing our servers, large budget items are generally replaced with one time state funded allocations. We will need to look at funding EID purchases, but hopefully these can be covered by state allocations.

FY2024:

\$75,000: This cost is the same as for FY2023 and covers maintenance of the previously established program, and possible purchase of UHF or dual handheld readers if our beef producers move towards that modality.

FY2025:

\$75,000: This cost is the same as the previous years and covers maintenance of the previously established program.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

Who are the primary constituents?

The primary constituents of the plan are the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Livestock Board, its staff of state regulatory veterinarians, the team of full-time inspectors and part time deputy inspectors, and the

support staff at the New Mexico Livestock Board. There is an open position for an Emergency Management coordinator who would also fill a role as an animal ID specialist.

Who are the external constituents?

External constituents consist of individual producers of covered species located throughout the state, the commodity support associations representing the various covered species, the governmental representatives of the tribal groups in New Mexico, the accredited veterinarians serving covered species, the staff at the State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and New Mexico State University.

What does statewide, tribal-wide, territory-wide mean?

Statewide simply means within the state lines of this or other states, excluding the tribal lands of sovereign nations who have not entered into a cooperative relationship with the state concerning regulations pertaining to livestock inspection, movement and documentation.

How are traceability data used internally, externally?

Traceability data is used to enforce the state's regulations concerning livestock movement, to trace disease suspects, to identify possibly exposed herds, and to meet the requirements of states exporting animals into New Mexico or importing animals from New Mexico. Tribal groups typically cooperate with the state by registering brands and complying with the state livestock movement laws. The New Mexico Livestock Board is bound by state statutes to cooperate with all Native American tribes in this respect.

What values guide the animal disease traceability system?

The Livestock Board responds to the needs of the state's livestock industries. Input received from producers and accredited veterinarians is implemented to enhance traceability.

What is the make-up of the animal disease traceability advisory group? How and how often are they engaged?

The New Mexico Animal Identification Stakeholders Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the state livestock commodity associations including the Cattle Growers', Wool Growers, Dairy Producers, the State Veterinary Medical Association, the NM Cooperative Extension Service, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, The US Forest Service, the Livestock Auction Markets, the NM Farm and Livestock Bureau, the NM State Land Office, the NM Horse Council, and the NM Native American Tribal Groups. These groups were asked to name representatives to the advisory committee. We have regular phone conversations, and quarterly meetings with many of the members, but because of the size of the group

and difficulty in scheduling meetings, we rarely meet as an entire group. There is at least, annual contact with each of the members.

2.2 Where are we now?

How is animal disease traceability currently defined? Is it viewed as a cross-cutting component to animal health information systems? Is it viewed as a stand-alone initiative?

Animal disease traceability is defined in NM as the ability to locate animals and the producers responsible for those animals. It is primarily used for tracking animal movements and disease outbreaks related to exposure by commingling both within the state and across state lines. It also gives us the information needed to enforce our animal movement statutes and rules.

What measures of traceability capability are currently being used? What are the specific values and associated interpretation?

New Mexico is a brand state. According to statute "... the board is the sole authority for the registration of brands, marks or electronic identification on livestock in this state". Brand is defined as "...a symbol or device in a form approved by and recorded with the Board as may be sufficient to readily distinguish livestock should they become intermixed with other livestock." Mark is defined as "... an ear tag or ownership mark that is not a brand."

The brand database contains over 30,000 designs owned by the livestock producers. Brand inspectors are outfitted with portable modern technology that enables them to enter activities in real time. Livestock moving across district lines and state lines must be inspected upon arrival and departure by a livestock inspector. The inspection reports are all identified by the GPS coordinates where livestock are located.

How is coordination being currently achieved within the unit?

All inspection reports are uploaded electronically daily to the Livestock Board mainframe computer. The New Mexico State Veterinarian's office and the Livestock Board staff are housed at the same location, simplifying communication.

How is coordination being currently achieved state-wide, tribal-wide, territory-wide?

All animal movement data generated by state livestock inspectors is downloaded to the Livestock Board IT infrastructure and available upon request.

How does the present unit coordinate activities with other existing agencies/units?

Livestock movement needs, concerns, and documentation are shared with other states and tribal units as needed. New Mexico gladly assists tribal governments when assistance is requested.

What standards for traceability are currently being used? Are they appropriate?

Standards for traceability involve compliance with federal and state regulations which include entry permit numbers for livestock traveling into New Mexico, submission of ICVIs, and import/export inspections. Free exchange of information amongst trading partners and neighbors and MOUs with said groups are important sources of information to meet traceability requirements.

What is the state of technology infrastructure? Capability in terms of size? Compatibility within and outside the agency/unit/department for sharing data when needed?

The NMLB maintains an extensive database housed in Albuquerque on a robust server and network infrastructure. All data from animal disease testing and livestock inspections performed in the field is maintained in searchable form in the database. Outside access to web interfaces to the agency database is available as needed. Examples include online permit access and reports on livestock movement at a local, state, and interstate level. The New Mexico Livestock Board employs full time staff who can interchange data readily using any of the various standard data interchange methods. The agency's infrastructure, including staff, servers, network, and existing programs is robust, and the ability and willingness to securely exchange data with others is very strong.

Are requests for information available 24/7, or only available M-F, 40 hours per week, if authorized personnel are present?

Access to the Livestock Board database is available on a 24/7 basis, as requested by other states and tribal groups. Although animal health officials are generally available during regular business hours, state veterinarians and staff responsible for electronic data accessibility are available on call for emergency situations. An after-hours permit line is available 24/7 and permits can be created online by private practitioners at any time. Counties and other states that have established login credentials in the system can access New Mexico's livestock movement data anytime.

What is the impact of state, tribe, or territory funding on capability? How does Federal funding fit into the plan?

The ability of this state to efficiently conduct an Animal Disease Traceability program is totally dependent on Cooperative Agreement funding from USDA. The New Mexico Livestock Board is primarily financed by user fees, brand registration, property taxes, and limited state funding, and has not been subsidized by the New Mexico Legislature. The

agency has been actively lobbying for increased funding through the state legislative process. We have received one-time allocations for specific projects but have asked for budget increases to maintain the programs. We are gaining better access to our legislators, and building relationships is helping us move forward financially.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

What are the strengths of the organization in terms of technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?

New Mexico's strengths concerning animal disease traceability lie in the state-of-the-art livestock inspection system as summarized in section 2.2 above. The agency has mandatory inspections into and out of the state's 26 livestock inspection districts. The personnel strengths and willingness allow the agency the ability to accomplish a lot with a little. Having our Livestock Inspectors based throughout the 26 Inspection Districts statewide, gives us constant feedback on what is happening around the state. Living in the communities statewide, our inspectors can keep up with issues as they arise.

What are the weaknesses in terms of "lack of" technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?

Inadequate funding is always a factor. As requirements for animal disease traceability increase, staffing shortfalls with respect to field personnel become apparent as the heavy load of inspections required for fall movement of cattle occurs. Lack of manpower and the large land areas that must be covered by each inspector place a heavy burden on resources. The Office of the State Veterinarian is understaffed to meet the current needs. Three veterinarians (the State Animal Health Official and two field veterinarians), an administrative assistant, and a part time data entry person are presently the staff of the Office of the State Veterinarian.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Does this plan enable or avoid consequences of potential threats?

Animals that are individually identified can typically be traced back to an owner successfully thereby mitigating consequences of potential threats. in a timely manner. The structure of our agency makes it easier to respond to natural catastrophes, and human resources can be shifted quickly to where they are needed, as was the case in the summer of 2022 with response to several major wildfires: cattle were moved, fed and watered when owners could not return to areas restricted by firefighting efforts. As a brand state, herds commingled during evacuation are easily sorted by brand.

Does this plan provide for better use of available resources than current approaches?

The basic goal of this plan is to readily trace animals in groups and individually. Traceability is dependent upon the effectiveness of identifying individuals, capturing that identification.

Does this plan enhance networking opportunities?

Access to the New Mexico Livestock Board database is consistently available to other states and tribal groups. This access encourages information sharing and communication between state animal health organizations. Networking with neighboring State Animal Health Officials has been beneficial.

If this plan is not implemented, what are the threats?

Traceability would be threatened, expediency would be affected and livestock industries in the state and receiving states would suffer tremendous economic losses due to the inability or delay in the movement of animals. If severe enough, delays or halts to movements could lead to welfare concerns caused by overcrowding or feeding.

If this plan is not implemented, will others be tasked with doing so?

The New Mexico Livestock Board is by state statute the only organization responsible for control of livestock movement.

Have previous efforts to coordinate with other entities within the applicant's boundaries, and outside the applicant's boundaries, been complicated or unavailable for not having this plan in place?

No; coordination with tribal entities has taken place on various occasions regarding educational outreach, brand registration, Premises Identification Number (PIN) registration and livestock movement. New Mexico has the largest livestock port in the nation. As mentioned previously, we have had success with traceability of imported Mexican feeder cattle.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

Human resources:

The financial opportunity for continued operation of a national animal identification program is totally dependent on continued funding in terms of the Federal Cooperative Agreement. Additional support for office staff, funding for travel, educational outreach for livestock producers and continuing education for field personnel and accredited veterinarians is of paramount importance.

Space availability:

In June of 2021, the New Mexico Livestock Board moved to a new building with more available space. Programs such as the State Meat

Inspection program, are being incorporated into the New Mexico Livestock Board. The server capacity will allow for expansion of ADT abilities and IT services.

Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field:

Connectivity resources are not a concern in the field. Inspectors can work offline and synch their computers to the main server daily. All inspectors are equipped with ruggedized laptop notebooks for entering country? inspections in the field.

Access to USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources:

Direct access to USDA servers is difficult for state employees due to the federal security system in place. However, communication via email or phone with federal staff is excellent and information can be retrieved and verified in a timely manner.

Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information: Reliance on paper records has been reduced to a minimum. Due to technological advances and the favorable acceptance of electronic capabilities by many producers and veterinarians, manual data entry has been greatly reduced and information sharing has improved significantly. The Office of the State Veterinarian is encouraging the use of eCVI's by not charging user fees. Paper documents submitted to the agency are processed and linked to search criteria to enable faster retrieval.

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

The New Mexico Livestock Board has extensive capabilities in this area. All the livestock movement records, brand ownership records, quarantine information, and animal disease testing records are electronic. The agency scans documents such as out-of-state ICVIs, EIA forms and NPIP VS 9-3 forms extensively and uses databases to retrieve and review the information. The state has an automated interface into Global Vet Link's CVI records for New Mexico. All the livestock inspectors have logins to access the data they need on the servers. The New Mexico Livestock Board has >100 TB of storage capability with significant growth capacity available. Appropriate security measures for maintenance of electronic data are in place.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision and Mission Statement

Our mission is to protect the integrity of New Mexico's livestock industry. Our team of about sixty full time inspectors and another sixty full and part time deputies continuously patrol and perform inspections around our state to help keep our livestock free from disease and safe from theft. These inspection protocols provide the opportunity to make sure our entry requirements have been met. We are also the Office of the State Veterinarian, whose team collaborates with various government and private sector partners to ensure that our state remains free of diseases. We have been encouraged by industry to increase law enforcement activities, which has increased identification of illegal movements.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

The goal of the New Mexico Livestock Board is to continue to develop and upgrade a statewide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with state, tribe, territory, and USDA standards.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

FY2023- 2025

The groundwork has already been laid. Currently, the goals include increasing implementation of basic ADT concepts.

Goal: Continue to provide outreach information to producers and veterinarians concerning the Animal Disease Traceability Program. Industry and their representative organizations, as well as sale yards must be included in outreach.

Goal: Enhance compliance with ADT programs through both international terrestrial ports to the level that is expected in the rest of the state. There is a federal project underway at the Port of Santa Teresa to install readers at a funnel point to loading ramps, so that a complete list of all animals by RFID tag will be made for each load leaving the port. Dr Burke Healey is working with port management on reader location, information processing, and who will receive the information. Once Santa Teresa is up and running, outfitting the smaller Port of Columbus, should be less challenging.

Goal: Enhancement of electronic data sharing among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry: including sharing basic ADT data with AHER. Initially we are seeking access to AHER for Dr. Eckhoff and the veterinary administrative assistants to keep up with

information sharing. We currently share information with many states in whatever format they request.

Goal: To increase the use of EID in preparation for mandatory EID for interstate travel, for the more efficient transmission of data. The EID distribution is attracting producer interest thanks to agency efforts to promote the use of electronic tags. Gaining producer buy-in has been challenging but is moving forward.

Goal: Enhancing the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter by strengthening our ability to capture data. Working with our saleyards will be crucial to capturing data points. Currently, sale barn records are paper based, but the agency is looking to enhance the inspection system to generate the electronic transmission of saleyard information. Industry buy-in is still pending.

Goal: Encouraging veterinarians to use eCVI's to transmit CVI information electronically to SAHO's. Because the entry permit system is, as defined by NM statute, used to notify Livestock Inspectors to perform import inspections, so entry permit requirements cannot be altered. We are looking for other ways to incentivize our accredited veterinarians to get away from paper by charging for the use of books. There has been a shift towards electronic CVI's in recent years, particularly by newer generations of veterinarians who do not rely heavily on paper record keeping.

We have a solid start with our IT system and great IT staff to work with. We will need to put some work into bringing our saleyards on board, but the information technology plan covers this issue to some extent. We do monitor ICVI data compliance and reach out to accredited veterinarians regarding issues, and their SAHO if they are chronic offenders. It's difficult to predict how much of the effort will be done in each of 3 years, but I foresee the first year being the toughest lift with some of our saleyards being tough to deal with. We will issue equipment but realize that government interference is not always appreciated. We need to establish a workable advisory committee, because the current committee is too large to manage. We will add a budget request (state) for RFID tags, to replace the NUES tags currently in use. The second year will allow for some fine tuning and policy modification where necessary.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

There are four animal disease traceability performance measures used for documenting progress and accountability in New Mexico.

- The first performance measure reflects the time it takes to determine the state where the imported animal was officially identified.
- The second performance measure defines the amount of time required to determine the physical location in the state where the animal was identified.
- The third performance measure establishes the time required to identify the state an imported animal was moved from when it moved interstate.
- The fourth performance measure determines the time it takes to find the physical location an exported animal was shipped from when it moved interstate.

How has performance been measured to date?

Performance has been measured by retrieval of pertinent animal ID information, and origin and destination of the shipment within a given time by using internal databases. There were no concerns identified on our most recent 2022-2023 TPM report. We frequently need to trace individual animals for disease traces (TB, EIA), and get requests to do the same for staff at our VS office.

What is the current baseline? Measures should be offered as performance per unit of time.

The current baseline for tracing animals in New Mexico is less than an hour. Animals that are not officially identified pose an entirely different challenge. The time required to trace these animals by paper trails will be totally dependent on the number of traces required, ranging from minutes for single individuals to longer periods of time for large numbers. Our part time data entry person understands her role well and has become competent with traces. This contract employee is available due to funding in our ADT Cooperative Agreement.

If the four recommended performance measures are not used, when will they be used?

The four recommended performance measures are in place and in use.

4.4 Data requirements

Fully describe standards to be used for location identification, if used.

Valuable traceability data is collected electronically and in paper format. Although the state continues to encourage electronic format whenever possible, paper will continue to be scanned and processed and integrated in developing animal disease traceability information. Searchable criteria include the name of the veterinarian, consignor and consignee information, animal identification, physical descriptions of livestock and

entry permit numbers on imported animals. Location identification will be by PIN/LID or GPS coordinates (inspection forms).

Fully describe standards to be used for official animal identification, including arrangements with other States, Tribes, Territories, as well as official identification methods/devices used within the cooperator's jurisdiction.

Although New Mexico is a brand state, it recognizes all forms of official identification as approved by USDA. The state allows commuter herd agreements with neighboring states and has MOUs in place with other states to ease commerce and traceability. We are starting with LF RFID tags and will remain open to any other EID approved as Official ID.

What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used?

Tag distribution is performed by the office staff. Tag ranges are recorded in an internal database and trace the distribution to the accredited veterinarian. The receiving practitioner maintains records of distribution to the producer. Information will be uploaded in AHER.

What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?

Commuter herd agreements are required to list the name of the person responsible, their contact information, the individual or group/lot identification including brands, and the Premises Identification Number (PIN) or GPS coordinates of both the originating and target premises. The proposed rules provide for an exemption stating that ICVIs are not required for animals moving as a commuter herd if accompanied by the commuter herd agreement and an inspection. Commuter herds move under brand requirements. Since Colorado requires official calthood vaccination, all Colorado cows are identified with official bangs ear tags.

What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to ICVIs?

Forms for export to other states are determined by the receiving states. All species: Brand inspection certificate (as approved by shipping and receiving states).

Cattle, sheep, and goats: Commuter herd agreement.

Equines: Form 1 (as approved by shipping and receiving states).

Poultry: NPIP VS Form 9-3 or as required by shipping and receiving states.

How and when will data be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA?

Data will be shared as requested. Multiple formats are available for information transfer, so the agency requesting information can choose the format.

4.5 Information technology plan

Hardware

The New Mexico Livestock Board IT hardware needs have, in general, been met with State resources. In 2022, we replaced all our hyper-converged servers with state appropriation funds. This refresh allowed us to replace end of life server appliances and networking equipment with new security compliance and expanded processing and storage capabilities. This environment refresh will serve us well into 2027. This upgrade also boosted our backup capabilities to an offsite datacenter housed by the NM Department of Information Technology. Backups to this site occur incrementally 24/7. This assures that we can maintain business continuity during a downtime event of our production environment.

In 2023, we have applied for State appropriation funds to do a complete refresh of our end user hardware assets. This includes our inspector field tablets/laptops and administration laptops/desktops. Again, this refresh should serve us well into 2027. We would apply any federal funds for hardware (supplies) to supplemental hardware, such as new positions that may be created to bolster our staff that participate in ADT activities, i.e., Emergency Manager, Staff Veterinarians, Border Crossing Staff, Contractors, etc. This amount would be estimated at similar levels that we have previously applied for in past plans; however, this amount may be adjusted as necessary.

Software

We have used past ADT funding to maintain our subscriptions and agreements for the applications we utilize to capture, store, and process ADT data. Our intention for 2023-2025, is to keep using this funding for these resources. This includes our internal processing and workflow application (Filemaker), our animal inspection system for field inspectors (Adesso/XForms), and our virtual environment platform to maintain our data banks/processing/disaster recovery (VmWare).

Updates to our animal inspection system for field inspectors is ongoing. We intend to replace our aging platform Adesso with XForms. This upgrade will allow for expansion capabilities in the way we capture animal ID and traceability information in the field. The application allows for customization at our agency level which will assist in accommodating future traceability needs.

In conclusion, the New Mexico Livestock Board will closely follow our past requests for ADT IT funding and with our State Resources will be future proofed well into 2027. Our capabilities to capture and process traceability data is enhanced by the ADT funding we receive.

4.6 Resource requirements

Is specific expertise needed that is not currently available?

No, if the need arises a position can be created or, if a full-time position cannot be filled, contract labor can be utilized. We have expanded positions in the IT department, allowing smooth communication both within the agency and outside the agency.

Will consultants be needed?

The agency will continue to use available consultants from the industry including Global Animal Management, Global Vet Link, Fort Supply, Allflex Inc., and any other companies that can provide needed information.

Is a continuity of operation plan (COOP) in place and how frequently is it tested?

A contingency plan is on file with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and is updated as needed. In spring of 2022, we participated in a FMD tabletop exercise that had a twist with our information systems being hacked. This was the most recent test of our continuity of operation plan. Our state IT group has been tightening up security for all agency computer and IT systems use.

4.7 Organizational needs

Does a need for organizational change exist? Is it recognized?

No organizational changes have been identified at this time. We have a strong and active administrative team, and looking forward to address needs, rather than knee-jerk responses, has become the norm. Our administrative team is very cohesive, and work well together at problem solving and decision making.

Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure?

Currently, operational resources are limited and are not likely to be leveraged further. Due to poor fiscal planning on the part of the state, operational resources have been decreased, but movement recently has been more positive. With the increase in oil and fuel prices, taxes on petroleum products have increased revenues available to state agencies. As we improve our legislative relationships, we hope to continue to increase our slice of the pie. Our administrative team is very active in pursuing funds from our legislative body. This administrative group is the most politically active team in the history of the agency.

4.7.1 Executive support

Is additional support from executive management needed?

Livestock Board management, including the Board of Directors, are highly supportive of the general concept of the Plan. Additional support is provided by the Secretary of Agriculture and members of his department. With a change in state politics, we have a new Board, and a new Executive Director. This has been a very positive move, and we are better positioned to move forward as an agency.

How is accountability provided?

Accountability is provided via input to the Board of Directors at board meetings, and producer input through the State Veterinarian and The NMLB Executive Director.

How are officials briefed on progress and baseline measures of performance?

Officials are updated at regular board meetings, industry meetings, and by regular reports to the Governor's office.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

How are emergency preparedness resources engaged or responded to when necessary?

There is a robust interagency support system in place. This system includes the NM Dept. of Agriculture, the NM Department of Health, NM State University, Agriculture Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) veterinarians, the NMLB, all branches of NM law enforcement and federal partners. We have funded an Emergency Management Coordinator position but have not yet hired a qualified individual.

4.7.3 Policy

How do existing mandates assist, limit, or modify what is intended to be achieved?

New Mexico statutes are entirely supportive of the Plan as anticipated. We have had difficulty with the slow pace of the IES system and are looking at potential rule changes to support enforcement of ADT requirements, locally.

Is there a need to address any specific mandates and act to modify them to align them with current goals and objectives?

See above.

4.7.4 Staffing

The New Mexico Livestock Board is, by statute, the sole authority for animal identification in the State. As such, the staffing for this Plan is a normal extension of duties of the entire personnel staff of the New Mexico Livestock Board. Justification for implementation of the Plan and qualifications of staff are not a matter of concern. As mentioned earlier, we are seeking a Livestock Emergency Manager to update response plans and help with ADT issues.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

How are you funded for animal disease traceability? State, Tribe, Territory versus Federal?

The New Mexico Livestock Board including the State Veterinarian's Office is primarily funded with user fees, a limited amount of state funding, and Federal Cooperative Agreements. The Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement provides the bulk of the funding for this plan.

What are the funding requirements projected by year for FY2023- 2025?

This question was addressed in the Executive Summary section of the Road Map.

How is cost sharing achieved?

Cost sharing is achieved through the Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement and state input.

How can the applicant insulate against budget cuts and shortfalls?

The current economic situation dictates that increases in personnel must be matched with additional funding. State and Livestock Board resources are stretched to the limit. Our new Board and Executive Director have been very active in attempts to secure increased funding. Educating our Legislators about our agency and the role we play in protecting animal health and supporting our animal industries has been a beneficial step in increasing our funding. Our fee-based services are limited by statute regarding fee increases, so we are working on a plan to increase inspection fees to help increase agency revenues.

Can other funding sources be leveraged to support this plan?

See above.

4.7.6 Outreach (required to be addressed within the Road Map)

[Successful implementation of any plan to advance ADT cannot be achieved without outreach to constituents primarily affected by the plan.]

4.7.6.1 *Accredited veterinarians*

Continuing education in the form of certifications are offered yearly to new veterinarians. Additional outreach is scheduled as funding becomes available. Seminars are often scheduled with the assistance of the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension service and other commodity organizations.

What continuing education is being planned for improving data quality relative to animal health information systems being used? Submitting official forms in a timely manner?

In-house educational efforts will be continuous. Periodic training sessions for livestock inspectors and accredited veterinarians are held as funding permits. The New Mexico Livestock Board has an active collaborative relationship with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the State Veterinary Medical Association. Issues regarding appropriate documentation are dealt with on an individual basis.

What role, if any, does the accredited veterinarian have in providing low-cost, official identification tags/devices to producers?

Accredited veterinarians will continue to attach the state numerically coded program tags (85) as in the past. These tags will continue to be distributed to veterinarians by the Livestock Board and APHIS. With the pending ADT rule changes, we will need to hold both producer and accredited veterinarian meetings to share the changes coming and help identify the roles of both groups in successfully moving forward. We have been trying to keep both groups informed as to potential changes through presentations at producer and other industry meetings. We have several accredited veterinarians that provide lower cost RFID tags to their

producers. By pooling resources, larger numbers of tags provide lower prices.

4.7.6.2 *Slaughter plants*

New Mexico conducts educational meetings with these markets on an individual basis as time and funding allows. We try to visit each market at least quarterly. Our inspectors are on site every sale day and facilitate cooperation and communication as issues or concerns arise.

What is the plan for accessing or requesting traceability information from livestock markets?

New Mexico requires on-site veterinary presence and inspection of all livestock consigned to livestock markets. The on-site veterinarian is responsible for all movement control of consigned animals. It is mandatory that all livestock moving through markets have USDA official identification, accomplished by existing metal and other official forms of identification and brands. Livestock market partnership will be crucial for appropriate tagging in the future. As mentioned earlier, the inspection system changes should be able to provide electronic transfer of tag information.

4.7.6.3 *Industry as a whole*

See 4.7.6.1. The same conditions apply.

How is industry being informed of the implementation plan?

The organizations representing the various livestock commodities are serving as a source of information for the livestock industries. The agency will continue to interact with those organizations and provide them with updated information concerning the Animal Disease Traceability program. Periodic updates will be made via the New Mexico Stockman magazine.

What constitutes industry? What species are involved?

How are under-represented and under-served communities being included in the outreach plan? Livestock industries in New Mexico consist of beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine, poultry, equines, and minor species including cervids and camelids. Under-represented and under-served groups can most effectively be reached through the Cooperative Extension Service. Several of our Native Pueblos are raising bison as a meat source and source for materials for traditional and religious items. The State Veterinarian and the State Extension Veterinarian have been providing herd health information through their local extension agent. Community outreach in the form of webinars and talks is provided by the Office of the State Veterinarian.

New Mexico lacks slaughter plants of any significant size, and most cattle are slaughtered out of state. NMLB is currently establishing a State Meat Inspection program which will give us greater access to tag information from our slaughter plants. We currently have inspections available for cattle going to slaughter and will reach out to our smaller plants as changes take place by visiting plants and speaking with owners/managers.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

How will the number of animals and the number of shipments be monitored that move interstate?

Inspection and reporting of all imports and exports of livestock is mandatory. These inspections are conducted by Livestock Board inspectors and are reported daily and can be queried easily by the IT staff. Additionally, ICVIs capture the information required regarding movement of animals.

How will the data be verified or validated?

Data is reported electronically and validated by comparison with paper documents that follow.

The following data must be reported for quarterly reports:

- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents created within the State/Tribe/Territory on a year-to-date basis for move-out animals.

- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents received for move-in animal.
- Number of animals by species and class for move-in events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified.
- Number of animals by species and class for move-out events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

What specific steps are needed to advance from where the initiative currently resides?

1. Continue to capture and monitor data from incoming and outgoing ICVIs.
2. Continue to implement an individual identification system for all livestock species, based on EID.
3. Continue to enforce federal requirements for interstate movement of livestock. The wording and requirements of the final ADT rule will dictate necessary changes to our ADT response in general and incorporate EID specifically.
4. Conduct educational outreach programs for producers, accredited veterinarians, livestock inspectors, livestock markets, and slaughter plants.
5. Initiate MOUs with neighboring states to encourage livestock movement and traceability in underserved areas.
6. All aspects of the ADT plan are interrelated and of equal importance to the success of the plan. There will need to be a concentrated effort on transition, acceptance, and implementation by our sale yards and small slaughter plants. These will need to be measured by variable successes but will be time limited as well.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Objectives have been or are already being implemented. Changes to implementation may take place based on interest and need of the stakeholders, and other governmental partners. Acceptance of changes and implementation of new information pathways at markets will be the top priority in the first year. Nearly everything else is in place and should follow along smoothly. The first year will be the toughest and will clarify what objectives will be of priority for the following two years.