

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR UTAH 2022

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Animal Health Program in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) has continued its work in animal disease traceability to improve animal disease detection, reduce transcription errors, increase adoption of electronic identification, and reduce data entry requirements. In the past three years, UDAF has required radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in all bulls tested for trichomoniasis, provided RFID tags to producers, installed USALIMS at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, provided training on mobile apps for disease testing and animal movement for veterinarians and brand inspectors, and is in the process of purchasing RFID readers for elk facilities, brand inspectors, auction veterinarians, and cooperative extension agents. UDAF has completed traces for multiple species involved in disease outbreaks as well as successfully completed all Traceability Performance Measures for USDA.

UDAF continues to use USAHerds for animal disease traceability. UDAF staff are members of the Committee for Vendor Oversight and the Technical Committee for USAHerds. UDAF supported the installation of USALIMS at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL) to improve communication of animal identification on laboratory reports and allow for more rapid response to disease detections. UDAF has developed an electronic brand inspection program that links with USAHerds to better correlate brand inspections with CVIs. In addition, UDAF continues to upgrade USAHerds capabilities, including the development of no-cost electronic CVIs and electronic test and vaccination charts.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The Animal Health Program (Program) in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's (Department) Animal Industry Division (Division) has the responsibility to implement animal disease traceability systems for the State of Utah. Our jurisdiction includes the boundaries of the State of Utah excluding the tribal lands of the Ute, Navajo, Goshute, and Piute nations. Utah's livestock and poultry producers, horse owners, and veterinarians in the State of Utah are our primary constituents.

All traceability data is used internally by the Program to aid in disease investigations. Data is shared with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services as needed.

2.2 Where are we now?

Currently, the animal disease traceability system in Utah has seen a significant increase in both import and export electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

(eCVI). USAHerds has the capability to capture most electronically generated data through the XML format or other recognized schema.

2021 eCVIs by Vendor	
AgView/AgMove	2,995
GVL	4,795
VetSentry	40
VSPS	7

UDAF staff send paper export CVIs to the states of destination electronically and have set up a special e-mail address to receive electronic import CVIs from other states.

UDAF uses USAHerds to issue premises IDs and uses the Data Management Center (DMC) to obtain premises IDs when USAHERDS cannot verify/validate addresses. Utah has ADT code and rules in place. Title 4 Chapter 31 Section 118 gives UDAF authority to make state rules to be compliant with federal ADT rules. It also gives UDAF the authority to enforce ADT rules, which can be found in Utah Administrative Code R58-1-3.

USAHerds Premises	
Total Premises	19,997
Premises with Federal PIN	14,909
Premises with GPS Coordinates	14,909
Premises with classification other than production unit or non-producer participant	964
Premises with species type	585

The primary goals of Utah’s animal traceability system are:

- Ensuring the privacy of data collected
- Collecting information that is accurate and free from duplication
- Ability to rapidly update information
- User-friendly information extraction
- Increasing the electronic transfer of data into USAHerds

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

a. Strengths:

- We have a large number of premises IDs issued in USAHerds. Many of these premises also have associated federal premises IDs.
- USAHerds Animal Dashboard Search allows rapid traceability. Searches of full or partial identification numbers pull data from import and export CVIs, test charts, accession data, and vaccination charts.
- The Domestic Elk Program maintains detailed inventories of all licensed elk facilities. A recent USDA grant is allowing the program to provide RFID tag readers to all facilities to improve the accuracy of reports such as death reports, calf reports, and animal movement.
- All bulls in Utah over twelve months of age must be tested for trichomoniasis annually. State law now requires an RFID tag be placed in every bull at the time of testing.
- UVDL recently installed USALIMS, which is set up to automatically send accession data, including animal identification numbers, directly to USAHerds. USALIMS has a Vet Portal for veterinarians to upload owner and

animal identification information to the lab. This reduces data entry requirements and transcription errors at the laboratory and at UDAF.

- The Animal Health Program has a close relationship with the Brand Inspection Program, and relies heavily on brand inspectors to enforce ADT, import, and state animal health laws. Brand inspectors are being trained on how to use RFID readers and mobile applications to improve animal traceability, especially for domestic elk.

b. Weaknesses:

- Long term funding: Utah is relying nearly 100% on federal funding to run our ADT program.
- Compliance with scrapie tagging regulations at auctions and private sales: Our producers and auctions are frequently found to be non-compliant with federal scrapie regulations for animal identification.
- Classification of Premises Data: Many premises are not properly classified as to the type of facility, and many premises do not have species types assigned to them. This would make it difficult during an outbreak to determine which premises may need surveillance testing.
- Premises Addresses: There are several premises that are associated only with a PO box and not a physical address. In addition, some parts of the state re-classified addresses, and hundreds to thousands of premises are not associated with their new physical addresses. Because of staff turnover and training, there are some duplicate premises found in USAHerds, which could impair the ability to associate test results with the correct premises.
- Test, vaccination charts and many CVIs are still received on paper forms, requiring manual data entry into USAHerds. This increases the risk of transcription errors.

2.4 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The Animal Industry Division has five components:

- Meat and Poultry Inspection Program
- Livestock Identification Bureau
- Animal Health Program
- Domesticated Elk Program
- Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Animal Health Program in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is

committed to meeting and exceeding federal animal disease traceability requirements.

3.2 Mission Statement

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's current mission statement is: Promote the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserve our natural resources and protect our food supply.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Overall Strategic Goal

Build on our State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State, Tribal, and USDA standards.

4.2 Programmatic goals

- a. Advance the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians and industry; including sharing basic ADT data with the federal animal health events repository (AHER).
- b. Increase adoption of RFID tags for animals requiring individual identification, especially beef cattle, in order to make the transmission of data more efficient.
- c. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected.

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures

- a. **Objective 1:** Increase electronic sharing of data via eCVIs, brand inspections, test and vaccination charts, laboratory accessions, and elk event reports. This will be accomplished through:
 - Providing no-cost eCVIs and test and vaccination charts to veterinarians through USAHerds and the VetCVI mobile app.
 - Providing education to veterinarians and elk producers on the use of RFID tag readers and mobile apps for chute-side data collection.
 - Providing education to veterinarians and elk producers on the use of the USALIMS Vet Portal.
 - Providing RFID tag readers to elk producers and conducting annual physical inventories.

- Creating a link between the electronic brand inspection program and USAHerds to allow monitoring of animal movements into, out of, and within Utah.
- b. **Objective 2:** Improve usability of premises data through proper classifications, addition of species types, geographic coordinates, and elimination of duplicate premises as well as coordination with premises data in EMRS and AHER. Work with the brands program to identify physical addresses for premises with PO boxes.
 - c. **Objective 3:** Increase the review of import and export CVIs and vaccination and test charts for compliance with ADT requirements. Provide letters to veterinarians who do not comply with ADT requirements.
 - d. **Objective 4:** Build a robust geospatial information system (GIS) within the Animal Health Program and other Programs within the Animal Industry Division to further our ability to geocode and map our premises for use with interactive mapping for disease traceability and response to possible outbreaks.
 - Coordinate assets and capabilities with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food’s GIS Coordinator to provide geocoding and mapping to our ranch and farm premises in Utah.
 - Provide training to key personnel in the Animal Health Program and our other Programs to learn to build and manipulate interactive mapping for our elk, cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry populations within Utah.
 - Provide training to key personnel within the Animal Industry Division to build story maps and interactive maps for tracking and publishing disease event information and updates on our website.
 - e. **Objective 5:** Increase adoption of RFIDs in beef cattle through education of producers and veterinarians and coordination with the Utah State Cooperative Extension.

4.4 Data requirements

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

The standards used are those which were created by the USDA under the NAIS system and will not change in the near future.

b. 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:

Utah has developed Memorandums of Understanding with 5 other states (Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming) to allow the importation of officially identified animals with a brand inspection as long as the animals are moving from the farm of origin and have only 1 brand.

Utah will allow the distribution of RFID tags direct to producers who sign an agreement to keep records for 5 years. We are currently tracking RFID tags sent to accredited veterinarians and individual producers in USAHERDS.

c. What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used?

USAHERDS tracks tags that are distributed as well as recording events such as brucellosis vaccination or animal movements where those tags are applied to animals.

d. What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?

- Address and GPS coordinates of origin and destination.
- Contact information for origin and destination.
- Brucellosis vaccination status of cattle in herd.
- Negative trichomoniasis test results for all bulls.
- Brucellosis test results for cattle that grazed in the Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area the previous year.

e. What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to CVIs?

- NPIP 9-3 forms.
- Owner / Shipper Statement to be used in appropriate situations.
- Electronic interstate swine movement reports will be used to import swine from Idaho and Colorado through a coordinated swine production health plan.

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

- CVIs generated in Utah will be sent electronically to destination states weekly.
- The USDA Animal Identification Coordinator has access to premises and test and vaccination data in USAHerds.
- USAHerds is working with USDA to transfer data into AHER.

4.5 Information technology plan

UDAF is utilizing USAHERDS with servers hosted by Acclaim Systems. Electronic CVIs can be imported into USAHERDS through the XML or other schema. Paper CVIs are currently being transcribed into USAHERDS. Brucellosis and TB reports are being transcribed into USAHERDS. Test results for reportable diseases are automatically downloaded into USAHERDS from UVDL through USALIMS.

4.6 Resource requirements

- Staff for data entry
- Funds for USAHERDS hosting and maintenance.
- RFID readers for stakeholders

4.7 Organizational needs

a. Executive Support

The current administration of UDAF realize that an animal disease traceability system will benefit the livestock and poultry industries of Utah as long as it does not adversely affect the producers' ability to make a profit.

b. Coordination and Oversight Procedures

The Animal Health Program will coordinate and oversee any animal disease traceability system in the State of Utah.

c. Policy

Rules are in place for animal disease traceability standards for interstate movement.

d. Staffing

Several staff are trained on data entry in USAHerds, but the bulk of the data entry is performed by an Office Specialist, the Domestic Elk Program manager, and the Assistant State Veterinarian. The need for additional data entry personnel will continually be evaluated.

e. Budget Requirements

The UDAF Animal Health Program will need funding through cooperative agreements for data entry personnel and maintenance agreements. UDAF also plans to purchase the new version of USAHerds due in 2022.

f. Outreach

Continuing education will be provided to accredited veterinarians in the area of ADT, proper submission of CVIs, electronic health certificates and software, RFID, and equipment to record and submit data in electronic formats.

Outreach to livestock and market owners concerning ADT will continue at various producer meetings and private visits.

g. Monitoring and Reporting Interstate Movement Activity

All CVIs will be monitored as they are received by the Division for completeness and accuracy. The veterinarian, the USDA AVIC, and the state of origin/destination will receive a letter listing those errors found.