



Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health Teleconference
March 4, 2011, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. EST
Call-In Number: 888-790-3291
Public Passcode: 1411045

Topics	Presenters	Times
Call to order	DFO Michael Doerrer	12:00 noon
Welcome and remarks (expectations)	USDA	12:15 p.m.
Review agenda – order of presentations and descriptions; procedural outline; roll call	Facilitator	12:30 p.m.
Traceability: The Framework	Committee deliberations	12:45 p.m.
- Topics for advice and recommendation (attached)		
Break		2:45 p.m.
Status of Aquatic Animal Health Subcommittee	Jill Rolland	3:00 p.m.
Veterinary Services Budget Issues	Kimberly Williams	3:15 p.m.
Emergency Preparedness and Response	José Díez	4:00 p.m.
Wrap-Up	Facilitator	4:45 p.m.
Adjourn	DFO Michael Doerrer	5:00 p.m.

SUMMARY STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ON ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION FRAMEWORK

- **Branding.** Delisting brands may be unwarranted with unintended consequences. Brands may work as official identification through change of ownership at sale barn or feed lot. Identification of the breeding herd is important.
- **Costs.** From the renderer perspective, producers should be responsible for proper identification of animals before they leave production. There is concern about burden of costs for producers associated with animal identification and possible budget cuts. The promise of unfunded mandate must be honored. Budget realities and focus directly impact analysis on the merits of the framework (e.g., costs to shore up and maintain searchable databases). Funding is a direct correlation with States' performance (or not).
- **Feeder cattle.** Take a "wait and see" approach before including feeder cattle in the rule. Past traceability programs have had success without including feeder cattle, which would cause undue burden on producers and marketers. Including feeder cattle could swamp the system (e.g., dramatic increase in interstate shipments). On the other hand, past investigations that began with feeder/slaughter cattle have been hindered due to the lack of traceability. Traceability should consider animal identification at all channels of commerce (closing the dead stock loophole).
- **Information security and confidentiality.** Data sharing and possible security breaches remain a concern. Information relative to cattle identification should be confidentially maintained by state animal health officials. An identifier based on the animal owner's name and address at the time of the animal's movement is recommended.
- **Rule schedule/comment period.** While some want the USDA to ensure that the timeline for the final rule stay on schedule, others saw the need to extend the comment period on the proposed rule given the time of year (mid-Spring) and the need for so many to read and understand the potential implications of the rule. On the other hand, several though 60 days is ample time based on the volume and wide dissemination of data to date.
- **Speed of commerce.** Commercial movement of cattle must proceed without significant disruption and/or delay through all channels. Multiple deliveries of cattle moving interstate could overburden the limited number of large animal veterinarians, particularly those originating from remote areas. Mandatory tagging of feeder cattle could significantly disrupt speed of commerce. However, there might also be a need to take a slower start with animal identification traceability.
- **Technology.** Requirement for electronic capture of CVI data. This topic will include a discussion regarding various ID devices that are cost effective and visit the challenges of various numbering systems.
- **Tribal sovereignty.** Concerns exist regarding Tribal sovereignty and authority relative to various State policies and requirements. Whether multiple state requirements must be met by Tribal Nations *en route* to shipment state is unclear.
- **USDA Intent.** In this version of the animal traceability rule, it will be important for USDA to make a clearer statement of the objectives of the rule, including what issues the system is designed to address.