

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH  
INSPECTION SERVICE**

**Animal Disease Traceability Meeting**

**Denver, CO**

**May 4, 2017**

[START 01\_TRACK\_01.MP3]

MS. DEBORAH MILLIS: It's quiet like a church. Good morning. Welcome to Denver, to one of many Animal Disease traceability meetings that we're hosting throughout the nation in the months past and in the weeks to come. Our goal in this meeting is to learn from you, the producers and ranchers and market managers and animal health officials, about how animal disease traceability is working for you at the field level. We're interested in learning about what has worked well and why that might be as well as what might be a challenge for you in animal disease traceability and how we might address some of those challenges.

First, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Deborah Millis, and I'm with the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. And I'll be acting as your host today for the meeting and taking us through today's agenda. And while I'm not an animal health individual, there are folks from APHIS who are. And we have several guests with us today who are animal health officials that you may

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1 know from previous public meetings on this topic  
2 or from your everyday dealings with those  
3 folks. And there are others too from USDA and  
4 many of the other groups represented here today  
5 that you will be hearing from throughout the  
6 course of today's meeting. We all recognize how  
7 important this issue is to you, and we are here  
8 today to listen as well as learn from you and  
9 figure out ways that we can improve the  
10 entire animal disease traceability. So I want  
11 to extend a thank you to all of the agricultural  
12 officials that are giving their time and  
13 attention to this important topic.

15 So a couple housekeeping things that I want  
16 to point out to you. The doors right out here,  
17 through this doorway are the quickest exit in  
18 case something like a fire alarm or such should  
19 go on and will exit to the parking lot. As we  
20 go out this door and to the right are the  
21 necessary rooms down the hall there, and that's  
22 an important thing. And I want you to feel  
23 comfortable to get up at any time and go and  
24 take care of your needs in that way. We have  
25 coffee and water over here along the wall, and

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1 across from the restrooms down that hall is  
2 where we'll be having some of our breakout  
3 sessions a little bit later, which we'll talk to  
4 you more about as that comes up.  
5

6 Now I want to also talk about the fact that  
7 we are recording this meeting today. And it  
8 will be recorded and then later  
9 transcribed. And the reason that we're doing  
10 now is because we are having many of these  
11 meetings, and the conversations here today will  
12 augment or enhance our notes that we may take  
13 today. And because several are being hosted, we  
14 want to make sure that we capture the thoughts  
15 of the community in as much detail as possible,  
16 so I want to just briefly go over the agenda and  
17 what's in your packet.

18 So in your packet you'll see you have the  
19 agenda there, and it talks about how it'll move  
20 through. Behind that is some notes on the  
21 presentation, some slides that you'll see a  
22 little bit later today, and an article on  
23 federal animal disease traceability rule  
24 requirements for cattle. And finally some  
25 information about the assessment that's gone on

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1  
2 to see how well we're doing with this and the  
3 questions for breakout groups. So if you don't  
4 have these in your document check with the folks  
5 outside at the desk or in your folder. Check  
6 with them.

7 And then just to briefly go over what's on  
8 the agenda for today, after I'm done introducing  
9 this we'll hear from a couple of folks with some  
10 introductory remarks. We'll hear about the  
11 basic principles of animal disease traceability,  
12 and we'll also hear about that assessment report  
13 that I was talking about. We're going to have a  
14 panel today of folks sharing with us their  
15 experiences with animal disease traceability and  
16 from their perspective some of the challenges  
17 that they've discovered and how they have dealt  
18 with those. And then after a brief break, we'll  
19 have an open mic session.

20 So on the tables before you, you'll see some  
21 note cards there as questions arise for you  
22 today. You might want to jot those down if you  
23 can't already remember them. If that was me I'd  
24 have to jot them down, definitely. And then  
25 we'll have an open mic session following the

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1 panel. So in this afternoon we're going to  
2 break out into small groups and hear from you  
3 about what your thoughts or some ideas for how  
4 to improve them or disease traceability.  
5

6 So with no further ado I want to introduce  
7 first of all, Dr. Keith Roehr, who is the state  
8 animal health official in the state of Colorado.  
9 And following him we'll hear from Dr. Aaron  
10 Scott who's from APHIS. And each of them will  
11 greet you with our opening remarks today.  
12 So Keith, the floor is yours.

13 DR. KEITH ROEHR: Thank you, Deborah. Good  
14 morning, everyone. For those of you outside of  
15 Colorado welcome to Colorado. For those of you  
16 in the state, welcome to the Denver metropolitan  
17 area. Fortunately we didn't have a snow storm.  
18 We had one of those just a few days ago that  
19 would have made travel getting here a little bit  
20 more challenging.

21 So beautiful day, very much appreciate your  
22 time. Everybody here very busy and this is a  
23 very important topic. I think everyone in this  
24 room probably similar to our livestock producers  
25 here in the state of Colorado 70%, 75% of our

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1  
2 agriculture is livestock, and Colorado 70% of  
3 livestock is beef. We're a beef state, and the  
4 animal disease traceability issues and changes  
5 that were beget in 2010 and 2011 as far as  
6 discussions and then a rule being developed and  
7 that became active in 2013 primarily affects  
8 beef cattle, adult beef cattle. So the fact  
9 that this federal program that's administered  
10 primarily through states, state departments of  
11 agriculture or state animal health boards, has  
12 been in operation for four years.

13 This is a timely opportunity to assess where  
14 are we at, what works, what doesn't work. What  
15 are the gaps? What can we do? What do we need  
16 to continue to do? Where are there  
17 opportunities to improve? I think that's  
18 important. We have a new administration. A lot  
19 of this effort obviously was beget before  
20 Secretary Perdue took office, but I'm sure this  
21 is something that he's probably very  
22 interested in. Our Commissioner of Agriculture  
23 Don Brown is on the western slope today.  
24 Otherwise he would be here on my behalf. But I  
25 know this is very important to our department

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1 of ag in Colorado and exceedingly important to  
2 livestock producers and those who are part of  
3 our livestock and cattle industry. So I think  
4 this is a great opportunity to come together,  
5 have an open microphone at times and opportunity  
6 for people to share and network together in what  
7 we all understand is important.

8 So Deborah, thank you. And again, welcome to  
9 Denver, Colorado

10  
11 MS. MILLIS: We don't have Wi-Fi available  
12 in this room for the meeting. I apologize for  
13 that. So no, I do not have an access code. So  
14 next up and also since you brought up the issue  
15 of technology, I wanted to remind folks about  
16 cell phones and so forth, if you could turn  
17 yours to silent, that would be helpful  
18 too. And next up, we'll hear from Dr. Aaron  
19 Scott, and he is from the Animal Plant Health  
20 Inspection Service and Veterinary Services.

21 DR. AARON SCOTT: Thank you, Deb, and  
22 welcome everybody to Denver. I think I saw some  
23 of you all parked on I-70 this morning when I  
24 was parked out there on my way coming down. I  
25 hadn't been to downtown Denver for a while, so

1  
2 it's a bit hectic traffic from the last time I  
3 was here at rush hour in the morning. I am  
4 Aaron Scott; I'm an epidemiologist by training.

5 My day job is overseeing a couple of the  
6 programs in Veterinary Services the two most  
7 pertinent ones. One of them is animal disease  
8 traceability; the other one is our accredited  
9 veterinarian program. Deb asked me what my  
10 title was, and I had to think about that a  
11 little bit and I thought well you know really  
12 when I was a jack of all trades. I go where we  
13 need things done. As an epidemiologist, I've  
14 been involved in a lot of disease issues. So  
15 when the swine industry was hit with porcine  
16 epidemic diarrhea, they thought they were ready  
17 but they weren't. When we had high path AI, I  
18 was involved pretty heavily on that.

19 And I guess maybe the most important thing  
20 in my history is that my folks, my family came  
21 here about 150 years ago and have been running  
22 cattle in Western Colorado ever since. So  
23 cattle, beef industry is pretty important to me.  
24 It's something that's of a concern, and I wear a  
25 lot of hats. I wear a lot of hats in the cattle

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1 industry. I was a practicing veterinarian for  
2 many years here in Colorado and now I work  
3 for USDA.  
4

5 I was visiting with some folks in the back  
6 room, Les and Cork, and you guys back  
7 there. And I stopped by to introduce myself and  
8 I told them that the people in the back  
9 room were really important because I always  
10 heard some good insight from folks in the back  
11 of the room. And I heard something from Les. He  
12 said well this is our livelihood, we're really  
13 passionate about it. And I said yeah, I can  
14 really relate to that. And then he said a lot  
15 of my neighbors don't think that what they have  
16 to say is important, that whatever is happening  
17 is a done deal, and so they're at home  
18 working. They're not speaking up.

19 Well, I want to tell you it is important.  
20 We're here to hear what you have to say, and it  
21 doesn't matter which side of issues you're  
22 on. We're hearing lots of different sides on  
23 issues. But we want to hear them, and we will  
24 hear every word, and hopefully the recording  
25 system is here today to hear what you have to

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1 say.

2  
3 A few key points. One, there are no rules  
4 being written in the back room. We're not  
5 writing any regulations right now. We're  
6 listening; we want to hear what people have to  
7 say. If there are rules that need to be  
8 written, we will hear from folks over the coming  
9 months and decide what meets best needs of the  
10 most people. But right now there are no rules  
11 where we want to hear. Why is traceability  
12 important? Well traceability is one of  
13 our APHIS administrator's top ten priorities. I  
14 t's also a top priority for many of his  
15 counterparts in other countries, other countries  
16 that look at traceability, and as a way to  
17 manage diseases, because it is. We discovered  
18 that in a number of different outbreaks, and  
19 you'll see some data from Dr. Geiser here in a  
20 few minutes. Traceability is a trade issue.  
21 It's in chapter four of the international  
22 code. So the question isn't whether or not  
23 traceability affects trade. It's whether the  
24 United States can make individual agreements  
25 with countries to facilitate trade or a national

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1 program or what's going to be the demand. So  
2 that's the issue that we have there. As far as  
3 managing diseases, as an epidemiologist I of  
4 course look at things, really scary things like  
5 foot and mouth disease that would wipe out our  
6 industry if it if it hit it and whatever tools  
7 that we might use to manage that and contain it.

8  
9 But it's not just foot and mouth disease.  
10 We have a lot of everyday diseases that we see  
11 and deal with all of the time and see a lot of  
12 you folks out there that are probably pretty  
13 familiar with bangs and TB and a few other  
14 diseases. Those are ones that we spend a lot of  
15 effort on in our states and in  
16 our veterinary services to address and try to  
17 find the animals and get rid of the source of  
18 them. Some cases we can do that; some cases we  
19 can't. I think one of the slides that Sunny has  
20 to show that made the most impact on me was one  
21 on TB traces. With TB traces on the figure that  
22 she will show you if animals had official ID, we  
23 found them. We found them fast. We bought herd  
24 of cattle. We tested; we eliminated the disease  
25 in them. On herds that didn't have official ID,

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1 we still found some of them. There's a handful  
2 that we didn't find those animals, and those  
3 hurdles are probably still out there somewhere.  
4 They may be your cattle. They may be my  
5 folks. They may be anywhere, not able to trace  
6 them.  
7

8 So I'm going to close out right now and turn  
9 back to you, Deb. I especially want to welcome  
10 you, and I look forward to some good discussions  
11 today. I'll be sitting back here visiting with  
12 folks, so if you have anything that you want to  
13 visit about, whether it's traceability or  
14 anything else, probably traceability would be  
15 a better topic than disease control, but  
16 certainly anything, I'll be back here and taking  
17 notes and trying to keep track of what everyone  
18 has to say. So welcome and thank you all for  
19 making the trek here, and we'll see what we can  
20 get done, see if we can come to solutions to  
21 problems and move ahead. So thank you all, and  
22 back to you, Deb.  
23

24 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, Dr. Scott. So next  
25 step, I'd like to introduce Neil

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1 Hammerschmidt. He is the Animal Plant Health  
2 Inspection Service animal disease traceability  
3 program manager, and he's going to give us an  
4 overview of what ADT is all about.  
5

6 DR. NEIL HAMMERSCHMIDT: Good morning,  
7 everybody. Glad you're here, appreciate it very  
8 much. I'm not going to spend a whole lot of  
9 time in this part of the program because we want  
10 to make sure we have significant time for the  
11 discussions, but I thought early on it would be  
12 good to do a quick review of ADT. Hopefully  
13 it's pretty familiar with you, but some of the  
14 requirements, protocols we established early on  
15 in ADT as we brought it forward in  
16 collaboration, a lot of the same discussions  
17 we've had to get us to this point with industry  
18 producer groups, market managers, and so  
19 forth. So I'm sure a lot of this is familiar  
20 with many of you. But a quick review today, we  
21 are focused primarily on cattle and  
22 bison. Certainly other species are covered  
23 in ADT, but we're focused today on cattle and  
24 bison. The sheep and goat industry is pretty  
25 much covered through the - - regulation, doing

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1 an adequate job for traceability from that  
2 perspective. But as we brought ADT forward, the  
3 initial focus, primary focus was on beef and  
4 cattle. We don't want to exclude the other  
5 species, but I think we want to stay more  
6 focused on these species today. Of course the  
7 Code of Federal Regulation Part 86 focused on  
8 livestock moving interstate. And we also want  
9 to cover the assessment report that Aaron made  
10 reference to that Sunny will provide some  
11 updates on as we've been  
12 implementing ADT over four years at this point  
13 in time. I think there's some interesting data  
14 to share back with you all. Some of the key  
15 principles that we established early on when we  
16 did ADT, certainly recognizing that the  
17 traceability, the identification of animals  
18 isn't new. We've been doing it in disease  
19 programs for many, many years, so we wanted to  
20 maintain and keep the infrastructure that  
21 are already in place from many, many years of  
22 work on disease programs and animal ID and  
23 traceability and so forth. We wanted to put  
24 more emphasis, delegation of responsibility for  
25

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1 the day-to-day administration of traceability at  
2 the state level, tribal level so it's more  
3 localized. We're always concerned about not  
4 only a practical system, but one that's cost-  
5 effective. Cost has always been a big concern  
6 and will continue to be so. We made reference to  
7 our initial system is a basic bookend  
8 system. Traceability is probably this big. And  
9 we recognized, to cover traceability as we go  
10 forward let's look at some priority issues that  
11 are more important today, build a basic  
12 foundation, realizing that if we do the basics  
13 well, maybe there is opportunity to expand what  
14 we initially developed. So we intentionally  
15 developed this system from a basic program  
16 perspective, realizing that it's not full  
17 traceability. We make reference to it as a  
18 bookend system, so we know where the animal was  
19 first tagged. We call it a bookend system, but  
20 one might debate is it really a true booking  
21 system from what we or other countries expect  
22 from a bookend system. We know where the animal  
23 was tagged and we call that the first bookend,  
24 but there's certainly other aspects of  
25

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1  
2 traceability that need to be considered in the  
3 equation to get us back to, for example the  
4 birth premises, and a lot of times people think  
5 the first bookend is the birth premises in our  
6 basic framework. Many times it is not. So we  
7 refer to it as a bookend system, but maybe it's  
8 not really meeting that criteria from an overall  
9 perspective. Keith made reference to the rule  
10 that was published in 2013 and we'll go over  
11 some of the concepts of that rule, for  
12 review. Certainly if tribal lands cover more  
13 than one state, then movement across state lines  
14 is not considered an interstate movement. Folks  
15 that take their own animals into a custom  
16 slaughter facility and happen to cross a state  
17 line, that's not considered an interstate  
18 movement. In this regards they're basically  
19 exempt or not covered in the criteria, because  
20 those animals certainly would be highly  
21 traceable back to that person's farm. Two key  
22 factors when you look at traceability from  
23 an ADT framework, and I think these are the  
24 essential pieces that we want to continue to  
25 build upon over time, official ID is required,

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1 and the ICVI, interstate certificate of  
2 inspection or other movement document. So when  
3 we analyze or study our program, it's more than  
4 just a tag in an animal's ear. Do we have the  
5 ability to know to find the records, retrieve  
6 the records that associates that number with the  
7 location for that animal? So we've worked very  
8 hard on the basics of making sure that if we're  
9 asking you all to tag cattle, that we have  
10 records that supplement that ear tag that  
11 provides the information necessary for  
12 traceability. Same for ICVIs, and we've had a  
13 lot of discussion about movement documents over  
14 time, and I think we came up with a good  
15 solution. And let's not develop a brand new  
16 document or solution when we have something  
17 that's very usable, workable with an ICVI.  
18 ICVIs have obviously been in place for many,  
19 many years before ADT. But we're trying to do a  
20 better job administering ICVIs, so they give us  
21 better traceability information. And I think  
22 Sunny's got some information to share that  
23 really reflects our ability to take advantage of  
24 these two basic components to give us the  
25

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1 traceability that we can work from. Official  
2 ID of course is defined by species. What works  
3 for cattle and bison might not work for equine,  
4 for example. So we look at it  
5 individually. Regulation requires that all  
6 states accept all methods of official ID. So if  
7 a producer tags a calf in New York with an  
8 official ID device, that ID device is official  
9 for California. So there is some  
10 standardization across the country that helps  
11 ensure that the official identification  
12 methods are accepted across the entire country.  
13 However, a receiving state cannot require a  
14 specific method. I don't like to pick on  
15 Michigan, but since they have a requirement for  
16 radio frequency ID, I use that as an example,  
17 because cattle that move within Michigan are  
18 identified with an RFID tag. But they cannot  
19 require cattle going into Michigan to be tagged  
20 with electronic ID. Once they're in Michigan,  
21 their state regulation takes effect, but it  
22 doesn't cover the interstate movement to that  
23 state. Real quick, official ear tags is one  
24 method of official ID for cattle. It's probably  
25

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1 the most highly used, but when the ship state or  
2 the shipping state and the receiving state agree  
3 on other methods such as a registered brand with  
4 an official brand inspection certificate,  
5 that's considered official, if both the shipping  
6 and receiving state elect to accept that as  
7 official. Tattoos and other methods  
8 of ID accepted by breed registries, again for  
9 interstate movements if both states agree that  
10 that's official, that's fine. It's up to them.  
11 Group line identification is recognized, but  
12 certainly more applicable to the poultry  
13 industry, the swine industry, and so  
14 forth. Official ear tags since we use those,  
15 probably more so than other methods of ID They  
16 are tamper-evident, indicating they're not  
17 easily removed from one animal to the other  
18 without noticing that the tag's been tampered  
19 with. We worked real hard on making it more  
20 clear on what tags are official. So the  
21 official ear tag shield imprinted on every tank.  
22 So if there's tags with numbering systems out  
23 there that no longer have the U.S. shield, and  
24 it's a two-year-old heifer, for example, we know

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1 that's not an official tag. It's an older cow  
2 that ear tag might have been recognized as  
3 official, so we set up a transition process that  
4 the younger animals would all have the U.S.  
5 shield on the official ear tag shield. If they  
6 were older animals tagged before 2015, that US  
7 shield might not be on some of those tags  
8 yet. Two numbering systems, the traditional one  
9 is referred to as the national uniform ear  
10 tagging system, - - tags the type of numbering  
11 system used for vaccination tags. On silver  
12 bright tags, the first two letters represent  
13 the state. Then also the animal identification  
14 number, the 840 number per se, is the standard  
15 for whether that numbering system is by the  
16 International Standards Organization, most  
17 commonly used in electronic; low frequency tags  
18 for compatibility. While most of our tags  
19 with 840 are electronic, it's not a requirement  
20 that they're electronic, but a significant  
21 percentage, 90 plus percent of 840 tags would be  
22 on electronic devices.  
23

24  
25 So when is official ID needed? All sexually

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1 intact animals and bison 18 months of age and  
2 over, all dairy at this point in time, and then  
3 cattle and bison of any age used for  
4 rodeos, recreation events, and show exhibitions  
5 require official ID. So the bottom line is we  
6 exempted based on the feedback from you all  
7 earlier on beef cattle under 18 months are not  
8 covered in the regulation. There are a  
9 significant number of exemptions that we get  
10 feedback on. Movements, even if they're  
11 interstate that move from one state  
12 through another to get to a segment of my  
13 operation, but I have to travel through a state  
14 obviously, even though I traveled through a  
15 state, I bring the animals back to the state  
16 that they were shipped from to get to my other  
17 premises. That's not categorized  
18 as an interstate movement or it's an interstate  
19 movement, but official ID is not required.  
20 Directly to an approved tagging site, they're  
21 officially identified there, so producers that  
22 can't tag their own animals can move across the  
23 state line, with the understanding,  
24 acknowledgement that their cattle will be

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1 identified at offloading or before they're  
2 comingled with other animals. Again, we make  
3 the opportunity for the shipping and receiving  
4 state to use other methods. Maybe there's  
5 circumstances for a load of cattle where they  
6 didn't get tagged with an official tag, and they  
7 still have good traceability. The state  
8 officials, state veterinarians have the  
9 prerogative of accepting other methods of  
10 identification, whether it's straight across the  
11 board for those types of movements on an  
12 individual recognized situation and then  
13 directly to a recognized slaughter establishment  
14 or directly through no more than one  
15 approved livestock market, to a recognized  
16 slaughter establishment. So if I'm selling  
17 some Kohl [phonetic] dairy cows and they're  
18 going through my local market, those dairy cows  
19 that are going to slaughter do not need official  
20 identification. They would be individually  
21 identified with a USDA-approved back tag.  
22

23  
24 So that covers the comments that we wanted to  
25 make on official identification regarding the

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certificates of veterinary inspection. Cattle that move directly to slaughter and also through one accepted market can be moved on - statement, directly to an approved livestock facility, are the two main categories that I think are most commonly practiced. Then of course if you have some animals you move into a vet clinic and you bring them back home, you don't need an ICVI that type of movement. And then with documentation, again the flexibility that we intentionally build into the regulation was that the states could agree on something other than an ICVI. So in the brand states, brand states if you accept the brand certificate in lieu of ICVI, you have the prerogative to do that as well. We more clearly defined what's needed on the ICVI, so it would end up giving us more traceability information. Won't go through all that list, but we do work very closely with accredited veterinarians trying to get those completed accurately and completely when they are used for interstate movements to give us good traceability information, and then we

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1 also, very important in the regulation  
2 mirrored or duplicated, the regulation  
3 that FSIS has, Food Safety Inspection Service.  
4 Let me cover this, the collection of - -  
5 slaughters, the next slide, but we worked real  
6 hard on wanting to make sure that recording the  
7 IDs pertains primarily to the breeding animals  
8 that move interstate. So the IDs, official  
9 numbers on, ICVIs on certificates do not need to  
10 be written on the ICVIs for cattle and bison  
11 moving to slaughter, steers, or spayed  
12 heifers or sexually intact bison and beef cattle  
13 under 18 months of age. So if I have feeders  
14 for example, being moved interstate while an  
15 ICVI is still required, the official ID is not  
16 required. So there's no recording of  
17 the IDs obviously on those certificates. The  
18 slide I was referring to earlier is in regards  
19 to the collection ID at slaughter. FSIS has the  
20 same criteria. We wanted to emphasize that in  
21 our traceability regulation because it's kind of  
22 the end point for traceability, making sure  
23 that the official ID tags and all man-made ID  
24 is collected at slaughter, and more importantly  
25

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1 that we maintain the ID, that  
2 tag correctly correlated to the  
3 carcass so at final inspection, if there is a  
4 sample taken that we're making sure that we got  
5 the correct ID on that carcass.  
6

7 And Sunny will talk more about efforts that  
8 are being undertaken with this part of the  
9 regulation, to again just reference the handout  
10 in your packet with more details, but wanted to  
11 give a quick review on the requirements that we  
12 work with you all in establishing the  
13 ADT framework, initially back in 2010,  
14 '12, published in '13. Sunny is going to give  
15 kind of a report on the assessment that has been  
16 done on the program to show what we've  
17 achieved. Maybe some gaps that are still  
18 pertinent to animal health officials that are  
19 directly involved in traceability that she  
20 wanted to report on this morning, Sunny.

21 DR. SUNNY GEISER-NOVOTNY: Thanks,  
22 Neil. Good morning, everybody. Thanks for  
23 joining us here today. We really appreciate  
24 your time. As he mentioned, I'll be going over  
25 some of the findings we found in our assessment

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1 of the rule to date. And so back when the rule  
2 was published in 2013, APHIS indicated we would  
3 do an assessment to see how part 86 helps us or  
4 enhances our tracing capabilities, sorry  
5 guys. And so we just recently undertook  
6 this. We published our results a couple weeks  
7 ago. Over the next couple slides, I'll go over  
8 some of the parameters that we used in  
9 conducting this assessment, including what we  
10 refer to as performance measures, and I'll  
11 explain what those are. Data related to actual  
12 traces, specifically tuberculosis, and then also  
13 feedback that we received from not only industry  
14 but also state animal health official. So from  
15 the beginning, ADT was set up as a performance-  
16 based program. And what that means is the  
17 working group who provided input into the rule  
18 developed a set of measures that focused on the  
19 two key factors in the rule, so official  
20 identification and movement documentation for  
21 animals for livestock moving interstate. And  
22 the purpose of that, to those measures is to  
23 document progress and identify gaps so we can  
24 actually make improvements in our tracing  
25

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1 capabilities within the state, so what actions  
2 can we take that will fill in those gaps.

3  
4 For each trace performance measure, we  
5 measured two key factors. The first is the  
6 elapsed time it takes to answer four specific  
7 questions, define them by a trace performance  
8 measure. And so that elapsed time starts when  
9 the state receives the official identification  
10 for the animal we're looking to trace and ends  
11 when they find the information that we're  
12 looking for, where was it identified or where  
13 did it move from. And so the first measure  
14 actually tests our animal identification  
15 numbering system distribution records, so those  
16 840 tags that Neil mentioned, number one only  
17 covers those because if you think about noose  
18 tags, you can look at a noose tag and know where  
19 the animal is tagged. So for number one,  
20 in what state was an imported animal officially  
21 identified, so we're in Colorado. We have an  
22 840 number. We look it up in our system; it was  
23 identified in Kansas. That's the answer to the  
24 question. Two, where in your state was an  
25 animal officially was the animal officially

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1 identified, so that would test Colorado's  
2 recordkeeping and distribution records for noose  
3 or animal identification number tags ,and then  
4 also the records of tags applied by accredited  
5 veterinarians and/or producers.  
6

7 Three, from what state was an animal  
8 shipped, so again even though the animal might  
9 have been tagged in Kansas, did it move directly  
10 from Kansas into Colorado or did it ship to  
11 another state before entering Colorado. And  
12 then four, from what location in your state was  
13 an exported animal shipped. The second factor  
14 that we measure when we look at these traced  
15 performance measures is the percent of  
16 successfully completed TPMs and so basically how  
17 often do we find the information we're looking  
18 for. So when you think about what we're trying  
19 to look at for these measures and when you think  
20 about traceability overall it's important  
21 to note that the key to successful traceability  
22 is timely retrieval of complete and accurate  
23 information, and we have stolen and used this  
24 slide repeatedly from the state of  
25 Colorado. It's one of our favorites for the

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1 program. If you looked on the left-hand side of  
2 the slide that is one year of import and  
3 export CVIs for the state of Colorado. So when  
4 you think about trying to find one animal listed  
5 on a CVI, that's what it would take to find that  
6 animal and where it moved from, versus being  
7 able to plug the number into a database and have  
8 it come up within seconds. That's really  
9 important. And so one of the biggest  
10 improvements that we've seen since the rule was  
11 published is just our record keeping, and the  
12 movement of documentation from paper-based  
13 formats into electronic format where they're  
14 more easily searched. When the rule was  
15 published, we set up some baselines to be able  
16 to compare additional years to so we call those  
17 the national baselines. Those were set up in  
18 fiscal year 2013. Each cooperative agreement  
19 period after that sets up another comparison  
20 year to those baselines. So we had, the first  
21 comparison year was in 2014 ,second comparison  
22 was in 2015, and we're just wrapping up our  
23 third comparison year, so we'll have that data  
24 available shortly. And I know the slide's a  
25

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1 little bit busy, but we'll walk through it. So  
2 on the left-hand side, the first column you'll  
3 see the activities that I went through and what  
4 state was an animal officially identified on the  
5 left-hand column, one  
6 through four. First bigger column is the  
7 national baseline we talked about, first  
8 comparison in second comparison. And then  
9 underneath those percent successfully completed  
10 and that elapsed time that it took to find that  
11 information. And without going through each  
12 one, I think what's important to notice is that  
13 we've made significant improvement from the  
14 national baseline through the first and second  
15 year comparisons. And so when you look at the  
16 percent successfully completed, we average  
17 between 70, or 60 almost, and 76%, for  
18 percent successfully completed to high eighties  
19 and even at low nineties for percent of the time  
20 that we were able to find that information we  
21 were looking for, so substantial  
22 improvement. We also reduced the elapsed time  
23 it took to find that information from national  
24 baseline years from 4 to 11 days depending  
25

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1 on the parameter, to one to two days. So  
2 significant improvement in not only being able  
3 to find that information, but also the time it  
4 takes to find that information.  
5

6 This slide represents data from TB traces  
7 that were identified at slaughter and so FSI  
8 performs inspection on animals coming in for  
9 slaughter. If there is a lesion  
10 that's suspicious for tuberculosis, they take  
11 samples. As Neil mentioned all of  
12 the identification is collected, correlated with  
13 that carcass through final disposition, and sent  
14 to the lab if samples are taken. And so what  
15 you'll see here on the left-hand column is the  
16 type of identification, if any, that was present  
17 on these traces, and then across the top, the  
18 total number of cases and whether or not those  
19 animals were successfully traced. Traced  
20 indirectly means that we found those animals  
21 because of cohorts that they came in with, so  
22 their buddy basically had official ID or had  
23 sufficient records for us to be able to find  
24 those individual animals as well. So total  
25 cases, so the data that we looked at we did the

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1 same period of time pre-rule versus post  
2 rule, so our records were from 2010 through the  
3 end of fiscal year 2016, to give us a nice  
4 distribution of records. We had 38 total  
5 cases. 20 of those were in feeder cattle. 18  
6 were in n adults. And what's important to see  
7 is the types of official, or the types of  
8 identification that are provided under the first  
9 column. So 12 animals presented with unofficial  
10 identification, 14 had no identification, and 12  
11 had official identification. And the importance  
12 of this slide is that every animal that came in  
13 with official identification was able to be  
14 successfully traced. That's statistically  
15 significant. We could still find some the  
16 animals with unofficial identification and even  
17 those without identification. But when you look  
18 at the inability to trace four animals without  
19 identification, that's four herds that we  
20 haven't found infected with tuberculosis, and  
21 what's the cost of that over time? So how are  
22 we doing with ADT? So if you look at the  
23 context, or the rule in the context of which it  
24 was set up, so official identification, movement

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1 documentation for livestock moving interstate,  
2 we're pretty successful with what we set  
3 up. However nobody would argue that there are  
4 significant gaps in that framework that need to  
5 be addressed.  
6

7 Through our feedback from not only industry  
8 but also state animal health officials, we've  
9 identified some gaps within the assessment, the  
10 first being that official identification  
11 requirements are limited to interstate  
12 movements. So when you consider that an animal  
13 can move multiple times before it ever cross  
14 state lines, if it ever cross state lines,  
15 that's something we don't have record of. And  
16 how do you know what you don't have? So if  
17 there's no movement document, how do you know if  
18 one was needed or if there's no official ID, how  
19 do you know if it was needed. And so there is  
20 potential for disease spread within the state  
21 before that animal ever crosses state lines and  
22 needs official ID. Also means that records  
23 really on a lot of those cases don't exist. An  
24 ICVI is not required or a movement document  
25 isn't required. And we've all heard that how do

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1 you trace a black animal with no  
2 identification? It's pretty challenging. When  
3 you look at the flexibility that we built into  
4 the rule, we have a lot of exemptions. That was  
5 probably one of the busiest slides  
6 that Neil presented. And this is probably most  
7 notably felt at the markets. Exemptions are  
8 confusing, so when you have an animal commended  
9 that animal move interstate? Is it over 18  
10 months, is it moving interstate for the first  
11 time out of the market? Is it going direct to  
12 slaughter? Does it need an ICVI; does it not  
13 need an ICVI? Does it need official ID? Does  
14 it need a back tag? It's confusing. I mean if  
15 industry doesn't understand it, how can we  
16 expect for there to be good compliance? It also  
17 makes it impossible, as I said, for us to  
18 monitor compliance, is how do we know what was  
19 needed if something doesn't exist? We don't  
20 have a record that the animal moved  
21 interstate. How do we know that it moved  
22 interstate the market and needed official  
23 ID? The second challenge we identified was  
24 reliance on low-cost technology or visual-only  
25

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1 tags. I don't think anybody in the room would  
2 argue that noose tags, right tags and the  
3 OCB tags served their purpose. They have worked  
4 very, very well for our disease  
5 programs. However, when you consider what our  
6 requirements are for traceability and the  
7 inability to read those tags at the speed of  
8 commerce without catching the animal at multiple  
9 times makes it really challenging. I like the  
10 top one because I need reading glasses now for  
11 most things. And so appreciating how hard it is  
12 to decipher what the numbers are on the tag, to  
13 be able to write them down and do that at the  
14 speed of commerce, is difficult. We also love  
15 the bottom picture. As a veterinarian I feel  
16 this guy's pain. I mean I can't tell if he was  
17 really mad or if that's just his  
18 handwriting. But either way he did his  
19 job. But when you consider that A, he had to  
20 write down all of those numbers, what's the  
21 error rate for writing those numbers down? And  
22 so issues with legibility, I might not read it  
23 the way he wrote it down. It might be the wrong  
24 number, and transcription errors in general make  
25

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1 it really difficult when you're looking to trace  
2 an animal. I think most people have come into  
3 these listening sessions expecting that we are  
4 wanting to move forward with phase two, which  
5 was when the rule was first published, was meant  
6 to be the inclusion of feeder cattle and the  
7 official identification requirements and  
8 movement documentation requirements. And while  
9 we can argue that feeder cattle are part of the  
10 equation, if you look back at the TB traces,  
11 20 of those were in feeders. They're not exempt  
12 from disease, but we will fully admit, everyone  
13 will admit that there are way bigger gaps that  
14 we have in the system than feeder cattle at this  
15 point in time. So while we list them as a gap,  
16 we certainly don't feel that they're  
17 our significant challenge at this point. We've  
18 also heard a little bit about trade  
19 implications. Some countries may require full  
20 domestic traceability, not just the programs  
21 that have been successful through AMS  
22 export verification programs, but a full  
23 domestic traceability program for our program  
24 diseases. So those parameters haven't been set

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1 yet by any stretch of the imagination, but it's  
2 been hinted at, that that would be important to  
3 these countries. Neil mentioned the  
4 requirements for collection of all ID devices  
5 and correlation to the carcass through final  
6 disposition. This is another important gap that  
7 we've identified. It's inconsistently  
8 applied. That's due to a variety of  
9 reasons. We've heard that sometimes the speed  
10 along the line is such that it's impossible to  
11 collect all the identification that's  
12 present. Maybe the location of the back tag is  
13 such that you can't collect it without slowing  
14 down the line. So again we impact speed of  
15 commerce. There are some procedural issues at  
16 plants just with the way their line moves or the  
17 way they have the process set up that probably  
18 need to be addressed as well. And then turnover  
19 not only of plant personnel but FSIS and  
20 VS personnel. So we're not getting that message  
21 through consistently or often enough to make it  
22 known why this is important, why we're looking  
23 for that identification, and why it needs to be  
24 correlated properly so we know we're tracing the  
25

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1 right animal, we didn't pick somebody  
2 else's ID and get back to the wrong herd. And  
3 so that brings us to where we are today. So we  
4 started outreach and feedback after conducting  
5 the assessment. At the beginning of conducting  
6 the assessment, we started off with conference  
7 calls with our own personnel and then state  
8 animal health officials to say what are the  
9 biggest challenges you see in your daily  
10 jobs. And the feedback that you've gotten from  
11 industry officials, related to the current  
12 framework. We charged those personnel with  
13 then going back out to their local areas and  
14 saying talk to industry and find out how it's  
15 working for them, realizing we can't hold  
16 meetings in every state, or even if we could,  
17 that not everybody can get to them on a  
18 particular day, that feedback is really  
19 important to us. We've had five, this will be  
20 our fifth regional meeting. We've got five more  
21 so we're halfway through, and then the feedback  
22 from those regional meetings will be wrapped up  
23 by a state/federal working group who  
24 is basically going to summarize the feedback or  
25

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1  
2 comments that we've heard, any consistency or  
3 differences of opinion and, that'll be presented  
4 at a national ADT forum in September of this  
5 year. So our goals for today, I think you've  
6 heard it quite a bit, but just to address it  
7 again, we want to hear your feedback. That's  
8 why we're all here. We're here to listen. We  
9 want to know what works well for you, what  
10 doesn't work well, do you think there needs to  
11 be revisions to the current framework? Are we  
12 fine with the traceability level that we have  
13 today? Where do we need to go or don't we need  
14 to go anywhere? So it's really, really  
15 important for you guys to be vocal. We've got a  
16 lot of opportunities today to provide  
17 feedback. In addition, I'm going to charge you  
18 guys with the same thing we charged our  
19 personnel with. I know a lot of your colleagues  
20 couldn't make it here today. They have ample  
21 opportunity to provide comments outside of this  
22 room. There's a federal register notice that  
23 has instructions of how they can provide  
24 comments. They can take them to Keith. They  
25 can take them to the local VS office and provide

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1  
2 them; they can mail them in. So today is not  
3 the only opportunity. If you guys think of  
4 something later, absolutely bring it to our  
5 attention. So appreciate you guys being here  
6 today and look forward to our discussions. And  
7 we'll address any questions you might have.

8 MS. MILLIS: So pardon me, we do want to  
9 give you the opportunity for any questions that  
10 you might have for Sunny or Neil. And as we do  
11 that we're going to pass the microphone to  
12 you. My colleague Anne [phonetic] is at the  
13 back of the room, and we'd ask you to identify  
14 yourself and your affiliation as we pass the  
15 mic. So are there any questions on what you  
16 heard in the presentation here just now? Up  
17 here? And give us just a second to get  
18 there. So we've got here in the front of the  
19 room and then a little bit further back.

20 MR. TRACY HUNT: Thank you. Tracy Hunt from  
21 Newcastle, Wyoming. I'm a cow/calf producer. I  
22 understand that there's been some discussion  
23 about holding some additional meetings, perhaps  
24 one in Omaha, based on a decision that has or  
25 has yet to be made. Would you like to talk

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1  
2 about that?

3 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Yeah,  
4 absolutely. And just got the dates confirmed,  
5 so that's why we were holding off on announcing  
6 those. So Neil, correct me if I'm wrong, we  
7 have we have three that have been added, one  
8 that's being hosted by Kansas. That's going to  
9 be their own meeting. Omaha is on the 18th of  
10 July. Correct? And Texas is, Fort Worth is on  
11 the 20th of July.

12 MR. HUNT: I also understand that there's  
13 always an opportunity to attend the meeting in  
14 Maryland by online or on phone attendance. That  
15 was not well-publicized, wasn't made  
16 apparent. Would be good for these folks  
17 out here, regular people to have known about  
18 that. Can you tell us why that wasn't done?

19 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Yeah, so we did set it  
20 up for via webinar and via the phone line and  
21 given the regional distribution, we wanted to  
22 make sure that we had enough lines for the  
23 region to be able to call in for that. We are  
24 looking at offering that for one of these  
25 western meetings. We just have to have it set

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1 up and provide that information.

2 MR. HUNT: My question is why wasn't  
3 provided for the Maryland meeting?  
4

5 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: It was provided to that  
6 region, to the states of that region.

7 MR. HUNT: Okay, and here's one other  
8 question that I have, and that is that the  
9 burden of animal identification falls  
10 specifically on and without exception, on the  
11 cow/calf producer, according to how you have  
12 proposed initially in your NAIS program. Now  
13 the producers are in states where you are not  
14 contemplating having meetings but you are  
15 contemplating having  
16 them again, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, places  
17 where there are packing plants, places where  
18 there are, where the choke point of the supply  
19 chain is dominant. Why would you not take those  
20 meetings out to the cow/calf producers that are  
21 significantly impacted by your regulation?

22 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Two additional  
23 locations other than those?

24 MR. HUNT: Or the ones, or you could have  
25 scheduled one of the other seven in

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1 those states.

2  
3 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Well we have, we've  
4 added them on due to the interest and the fact  
5 that we've had such a good response, so we're  
6 having meetings in those states I just mentioned  
7 in addition to Kansas, but they're looking to  
8 host their own.

9 MR. HUNT: Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota,  
10 North Dakota--

11 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: [Interposing] We have  
12 one in Billings.

13 MR. HUNT: Thank you.

14 MS. MILLIS: And then we had a question back  
15 here somewhere, if you could raise your hand  
16 again, thank you.

17 MR. KEVIN MILLER: I'm Kevin Miller from  
18 Colorado. In your performance measures...

19 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Yeah?

20 MR. MILLER: The improvement that you saw,  
21 do you think a big chunk of that is through the  
22 electronic age of CVIs, beyond just the  
23 official ID?

24 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Without question, the  
25 timeliness of retrieving that information is the

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1 result of more of the records being put on  
2 electronic data and certainly emphasis on  
3 electronic ICVIs to begin with is improving, but  
4 I think some of the things we still want to  
5 put a priority on, we key a lot of those paper  
6 forms into the systems. It would be certainly  
7 more ideal if those forms were initiated  
8 electronically to begin with. So we still have  
9 a lot of room for improvement, but moving that  
10 data to electronic storage devices I'd say is  
11 the greatest result we've had to date by having  
12 more timely information that we can retrieve.

14 MS. DONNA HUNT: Donna Hunt, Newcastle,  
15 Wyoming. I was wondering is this when you guys  
16 put all this information together and then you  
17 propose rules, will there be more public  
18 meetings on the new proposed rules if you come  
19 up with some and a comment period like we're  
20 having now? Or is this the information you're  
21 going to use as your comment?

22 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: That's a great question,  
23 and certainly if there is a rulemaking process,  
24 we'll certainly duplicate the process we did  
25 when ADT was developed. Having meetings like

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1 this on the proposed content of the proposed  
2 rule, a comment period, a proposed rule would be  
3 published and certainly open for comment. Not a  
4 timely process, but a great process to go  
5 through to make sure it's well-publicized by all  
6 means.

8 MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: Hi, my name's John  
9 Campbell with Winter Livestock in La  
10 Junta. On your documentation here, you state  
11 that a brand is considered identification. You  
12 will recognize a brand in, in like here in  
13 Colorado we are brand state. And that  
14 accompanies the cattle where they go in in the  
15 buyers purchase sheet. Every brand, on  
16 every animal is documented and the number that  
17 they have. But yet is it because the other  
18 states won't recognize that, that we're still  
19 having to run all these cows through  
20 individually, and ID tag them after the fact, to  
21 send them to a feed yard in Texas or a feed yard  
22 in Kansas?

23 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Well certainly from a  
24 federal perspective, we couldn't designate  
25 brands as official across the entire country

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1 because there is a significant part of the  
2 country that is not covered. And so that's why  
3 we've really left that option up to the states  
4 themselves have brands, that if they want to  
5 recognize those as official for that movement,  
6 they certainly have the prerogative to do so.  
7

8 MR. CAMPBELL: So evidently Kansas,  
9 Texas, Oklahoma will not recognize Colorado's  
10 brands. So therefore they require that an  
11 individual tag be put in the animal's ear if  
12 they're going to a feeding facility there. Is  
13 that where the hang up is, or are you aware of  
14 that or...

15 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: There are certainly,  
16 states have the prerogative to have state rules,  
17 state import rules, and they can require  
18 official ID on animals that are not covered by  
19 the federal rule. They can have more stringent  
20 requirements. Certainly Keith and others might  
21 want to comment on the recognition of brands  
22 from other states. They actually work with  
23 brand records more so than I do.

24 DR. ROEHR: The comment I have, brands are  
25 a tool, and I guess real life today,

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1 we're tracing tuberculosis from a beef facility  
2 in South Dakota. And we've had a number of  
3 cattle that we know four years of calf  
4 hoof vaccination tags that we're looking for,  
5 those tags fall out. And occasionally they're  
6 not recorded. And when we are in herds of  
7 interest where we know there is movement we  
8 take our clippers with us. And we've had cases  
9 where we find, and we know the brands of that  
10 initial herd and some other brands that are of  
11 livestock of interest. So it's a tool that we  
12 use. The other limitation is in  
13 slaughter traces where they may find a lesion,  
14 enlarged lymph node at slaughter. The  
15 hide's separate and gone, and certainly that's a  
16 gap from our perspective because we do see soft  
17 traces today where either there was no official  
18 ID, or it wasn't collected or in cases we find  
19 that the DNA that we can pull off of blood or  
20 tissue that's with the tag doesn't match the  
21 carcass. So there's a number of problems in  
22 that. I think those are areas of growth or  
23 areas where we could do better. I think notably  
24 too, not a direct correlation but indirect, the

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1 states that are brand states that are accustomed  
2 to identification and change of  
3 ownership in cattle, I don't think it's an  
4 accident, those states are in many cases leaders  
5 in animal disease traceability in what we  
6 do. So our brand inspectors in Colorado are  
7 invaluable as a resource. While their job is  
8 ownership and theft, we work together and use  
9 brands as a tool in Colorado, and in many cases  
10 they're very helpful.

12 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: So Keith, at the  
13 slaughter level if you've got a tag, then that  
14 tag is transferred to the carcass? And it  
15 accompanies the carcass throughout the post-  
16 mortem inspection?

17 DR. ROEHR: And Neil, correct me if I'm  
18 wrong, but the way I understand FSIS requirement  
19 is that they collect all man-made and correlate  
20 that with the carcass until such time that that  
21 carcass is cleared, and those are primarily  
22 for brucellosis/tuberculosis reasons. But  
23 you at know one time we had a market cattle  
24 identification program in the United States  
25 where 95% of age-eligible cattle were bled for

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1  
2 brucellosis. And at that time the  
3 officials ID cattle, was at a higher level than  
4 it is today. And today we only 11 slaughter  
5 plants that are collecting blood  
6 for brucellosis purposes. So some of those  
7 disease programs were helpful in the day to do  
8 their purpose. And because there's less need of  
9 those specific disease control programs we're  
10 kind of in a transition period where we're using  
11 the same tools, but probably some gaps in where  
12 we'd like to be using those tools  
13 in animal disease traceability overall.

14 MS. MILLIS: Any other questions? We're on  
15 our way.

16 MR. CORK MEYER: Yeah, Cork Meyer,  
17 Rawlins, Wyoming. I'd like to know how many  
18 cattle - - ID come out of brand states, I can't  
19 see where that would be hard to track back.

20 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Where's Aaron?

21 I don't think we have, I think we had record  
22 of that, because at slaughter we wouldn't have  
23 been able to correlate it back based on the  
24 brand, 'cause the hide is already gone. So we  
25 wouldn't have had that information collected at

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1 slaughter versus the tags. So if tissues were  
2 submitted, the tags go with the tissues if  
3 they're present. But by that time the brand is  
4 long gone with the hide, so that's never  
5 correlated at slaughter, or not that I'm aware  
6 of.  
7

8 MR. MEYER: It looks like you got a packing  
9 house problem, not a producer problem then.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: I can comment. I'm directly  
11 involved with the TB situation.

12 MS. MILLIS: John Campbell, here's the  
13 mic.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, I'm directly involved  
15 with the TB situation out of South Dakota. And  
16 it was two or three years prior, and Keith knows  
17 more about it than I do. But we merchandise  
18 over 1,250 cattle from one individual. And  
19 through our records and through the brand, we  
20 found where every one of them went. But then  
21 you get to that point, and they're comingled,  
22 and then trying to read the brand. And I take a  
23 little exception with killing all of those  
24 cattle, and they have yet to find one. I don't  
25 think - - rather than test them, but I'm sure

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1 there's another side of the story I don't  
2 understand. But I think on something pre-  
3 slaughter, the brand deal is very useful. But I  
4 understand your point at postmortem. I mean the  
5 brand's gone, so how do you how do you correlate  
6 the two unless you've got your brand and a  
7 carcass or something to match up with the hot-  
8 iron brand on the animal. I don't know how they  
9 make that correlation.  
10

11 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And it's all about  
12 speed of commerce for that...

13 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, I'm real concerned  
14 about speed of commerce. When have to run every  
15 through the chute and read these tags, and you  
16 have a health certificate like that, and the  
17 shrink and the wear and tear and damage involved  
18 in in the cattle. And in Colorado, talk about a  
19 gap, it's done after the cattle are comingled  
20 and go into a feed yard. The only place you'll  
21 bring them back to is Winter Livestock in La  
22 Junta, and that's the end of the story. They  
23 came out of 1,200 butchered cows that came out  
24 of La Junta on May the 4th. That's all we can  
25 tell you. We can't, no way tracking back to

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1 Keith Roehr because he's got an individual ID  
2 tag, 'cause they were tagged after the fact.

3  
4 DR. ROEHR: And John, one common practice,  
5 and this is true with both the La Junta markets  
6 and many, many other markets across the United  
7 States, commonly for bred cow or bred heifer  
8 sales or pairs, the veterinarian will back tag  
9 and then correlate with an ear tag in  
10 preparation for writing official certificates of  
11 veterinary inspection if they do move  
12 interstate. The thing we found is even when  
13 those bred cattle don't move interstate, they  
14 still keep those records. They're kept in a  
15 variety of fashions, and they're in a very basic  
16 format, but...that is correct, yes. That's  
17 true.

18 MS. MILLIS: We will welcome other comments  
19 and questions of this nature, but next up we  
20 want to hear from our panel. So I'm going to  
21 invite all of you participants while the panel  
22 comes to the front to get set up, to stand,  
23 stretch your legs, circulate, get some oxygen  
24 if you need to. On our panel today we'll have  
25 Kevin Miller, who is a cow, beef, and cattle

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1 producer, or beef, cow, and cattle producer, Dr.  
2 Juan Valez, who is the head veterinarian  
3 for Aurora Organic Dairy, Jim Santomaso, who is  
4 an owner out of Sterling Livestock, in  
5 Sterling, Colorado, Dr. Keith Roehr, who we've  
6 heard from this morning, who's the Colorado  
7 State veterinarian, and Dr. Sina Parsaye, an  
8 accredited veterinarian and market vet for  
9 Centennial Livestock up in Fort Collins. So I'm  
10 going to ask them to join us up here in the  
11 front, and we'll hear from each of these  
12 folks. And at the end of that, we'll open it up  
13 to the whole group having an opportunity to ask  
14 them questions. So you've got little note cards  
15 there at your table if some ideas or thoughts  
16 come up as they're speaking. I'll invite you to  
17 kind of jot them down so at the end we can hear  
18 from each of these folks. And you guys have  
19 these microphones that I'll ask you to use when  
20 you're talking. And I'll take those.

22 DR. ROEHR: We'll go ahead and get our  
23 session here. We'll ask Kevin to lead  
24 off. Production begins with the producer, in  
25 this case the cow calf and seed stock producer

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1  
2 in Colorado. So Kevin, pleased to hear your  
3 perspectives.

4 MR. KEVIN MILLER: So I'm Kevin Miller from  
5 Croissant Red Angus in  
6 Briggsdale, Colorado. We're a seed stock  
7 operation, and we also have a small feed  
8 yard. As we've gone through the animal disease  
9 and traceability aspects of our operation, it's  
10 been about a three-year learning curve. We work  
11 very closely with our veterinarian in designing  
12 a system that does not slow the speed of  
13 commerce. And I think that's important in each  
14 one of these aspects, from our operation to the  
15 sale barn to even the processing plants. And  
16 so we started off utilizing the bright tags  
17 which are basically the banks tags. And we  
18 found that I always had to input that send  
19 it off to the vet clinics so I could get CVI so  
20 I could get across state lines, and that created  
21 some just down times for getting CVIs in a  
22 timely manner. This year we moved to RFID  
23 systems. That worked a whole lot better because  
24 as they were - - bulls, we were  
25 putting IEDs, and they had that big long nasty

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1 number already built into their system. So  
2 whenever I called in, I said okay, lot one is  
3 going to this guy in Kansas, get them to  
4 me. The other thing that is probably the most  
5 important thing is our vet uses Vet Link which  
6 is an electronic CVI system that they use, and  
7 they just email them to me, so I get them on my  
8 phone, sometimes while I'm on the road, and  
9 we're good to go. And so as things have  
10 progressed and each stage has learned, I think  
11 it's gotten better. But at the end of the day  
12 when I deal with my customers, they  
13 realistically don't even know it happens because  
14 they send their cows to La Junta Livestock or to  
15 Sterling, and it's all taken care of there. And  
16 so as we look from a producer standpoint, they  
17 don't know it's happening until they get them  
18 their check back from each one of the livestock  
19 barns, and now there's a deduction of 3 to \$5 or  
20 whatever it is for running the cows through the  
21 chute and putting the EIDs in so they can go  
22 to wherever else in the country. So I think as  
23 we move forward, education is still a key  
24 component. I don't think the system that we're  
25

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1 at right now in the cow/calf phase is to  
2 the level that it needs to be. And that's my  
3 personal perspective as what I see through our  
4 business and dealing with some of our customers.  
5

6 DR. SINA PARSAYE: Hi, I'm Sina Parsaye,  
7 a veterinarian at Centennial Livestock as well  
8 as just a beef veterinarian there in Laporte,  
9 Colorado. Graduated in 2015 from CSU, and kind  
10 of got thrown into Centennial. And it  
11 was interesting as a young vet coming in, and  
12 you sort of just sort of just get thrown into  
13 it, and trying to incorporate electronic health  
14 certificates and to really fully understand  
15 how the ID-ing works and how to implement it  
16 correctly. The first couple of months I was  
17 talking to Dr. Turner quite a bit in trying to  
18 get it set up to where I was compliant to the  
19 other states receiving the  
20 cattle. In Centennial we see sheep, goats,  
21 or sheep and goats cells are quite big, the  
22 scrapie identification there and as it  
23 correlates back to back to the cattle. And  
24 as Keith was saying, so at the chutes, we're - -  
25 checking cows. If they have an ID clip, we

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1 record that, and they get a back tag. And  
2 that's married to that to that back tag, 'cause  
3 I need to be able to write a health certificate  
4 if we don't know if these cattle are going to  
5 leave the state until they're purchased. And I  
6 need to be able to list those numbers  
7 individually on the health  
8 certificate. That's the part that gets a little  
9 bit, it's just somewhat cumbersome, but we're  
10 trying to learn and figure out how to do it  
11 better. I think there's a future in RFID use at  
12 livestock markets, but implementing it,  
13 its implementation has to be either complete,  
14 whole or that part I haven't quite figured out  
15 how to make it how I can work there, and make it  
16 work. But trying to be compliant is sort of  
17 issue that I face every day and sort of the  
18 speed of commerce as well. Somebody, if they  
19 buy 300 head of Holstein steers going, some  
20 states require that it be listed on the CVI,  
21 that they are ID'd, but some states require that  
22 the IDs be listed. And so all of a sudden I can  
23 walk through the pen and check does everybody  
24 seem ID'd, are they compliant, good? It doesn't

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1 take very long to get them on the road, get  
2 them loaded. But if I got to run 400 head of  
3 Holstein steers through the chute, that starts  
4 to slow things down. And who pays for that in  
5 the end is the costs get, where does the cost  
6 get put onto? The producer, to the  
7 purchaser. Right now it goes to the  
8 purchaser. So just some things to think about  
9 as far as how we can, but if there was sort of  
10 an overall ID program put in there to where  
11 every cattle that sold was electronically ID'd,  
12 that way the paperwork could be streamlined,  
13 so your health certificates could be generated,  
14 so that you were compliant for the receiving  
15 states. And I guess on a daily basis trying to  
16 figure out how to be compliant so I don't get in  
17 trouble in that everybody's happy. That's kind  
18 of what I saw seem to deal with on a daily basis  
19 and trying to do the right thing as far as  
20 working the cattle through the chute, what is  
21 the stress, how much, and just being compliant  
22 with the ADT rule.

24 DR. JUAN VALEZ: Good morning, my name is  
25 Juan Valez. I'm a veterinarian by training from

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1  
2 Colombia, South America. I was raised and the  
3 purebred Brahman cow/calf operation and a  
4 cow/calf commercial operation in the  
5 tropics. Came to the United States and practice  
6 veterinary medicine for the company that I  
7 work for today for many years. But today I  
8 play the role of management. I'm responsible  
9 for all the agricultural side of  
10 Aurora Organic Dairy. If you were not familiar  
11 with our company, perhaps today you are based on  
12 the bad news, the attacks were put onto us. The  
13 Washington Post a couple of days ago, very false  
14 accusations against the way that we practice our  
15 grazing. One of the things that has always  
16 demonstrated our records and our ability is the  
17 way that we trace absolutely everything. That  
18 traceability is what keeps us out of trouble  
19 with the activities they want to pit small  
20 business versus large business against each  
21 other. I mention that because it's one of the  
22 key parameters of our vertically integrated  
23 business, is traceability, even though that  
24 doesn't make us very popular. The beef folks  
25 are not very fond of dairy men. In many

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1 aspects, the organic folks like us because we're  
2 large. The conventional dairy men don't like us  
3 because we're organic. But we're very, very  
4 proud of what we do. And you guys, many of you  
5 may not like me because I am very, very much for  
6 electronic identification at birth. It has  
7 saved us a tremendous amount of time and  
8 money. We ended up with cattle from another  
9 producer in Texas. They found some bull calves  
10 out of his herd that were infected. Traced back  
11 and we got some of them with, they trace it back  
12 to us, that we had received come from them  
13 that could have been exposed to tuberculosis,  
14 and we have tested our Colorado herd and our  
15 Texas herd. 8,500 cows in Texas, and close to  
16 14,000 14000 dairy cows in Colorado, we've been  
17 having to test them for tuberculosis I  
18 believe three or four times by  
19 now. The electronic identification has made  
20 that testing so much easier by electronically  
21 reading the tag of the cow and going back to a  
22 system where at the end of the day, they can  
23 tell us we're missing these two cows. We go  
24 back to the computer, we know exactly where they

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1  
2 are. I cannot believe how difficult that  
3 process would have been without having the  
4 electronic ID in place which we established. We  
5 started putting it in every  
6 newborn calf approximately I believe six or  
7 seven years ago.

8 I believe that again, I'm not in the day-to-  
9 day activity of the herd and the herdsman and  
10 the  
11 processing. However, our practicing veterinaria  
12 n that we work, Dr. Nick Schneider, is here  
13 today. He will be a lot better telling  
14 you you on the real world having to deal with  
15 these kind of problems, how much electronic  
16 RFID helps. On a side note, on the day-to-day  
17 activities that we do at the farm, it has saved  
18 us a tremendous amount of time, finding a cow  
19 that the milk are identified with mastitis, and  
20 being able to go back to the pen and reading  
21 it - - and finding that cow instead of having to  
22 read a lot of ear tags. There's a lot of  
23 employees that actually don't realize, this is  
24 an anecdote, but it's interesting, don't realize  
25 that they have some vision issues, and they have

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1 a lot of transposing of numbers--

2 [END 01\_Track\_01.mp3]

3 [START 02\_Track\_01.mp3]

4 DR. PARSAYE: And we - - instead of having  
5 to read a lot of ear tags, that there's a lot of  
6 employees that actually don't realize, and we  
7 didn't with, this is an anecdote that is  
8 interesting, don't realize that they have some  
9 vision issues and they have a lot of  
10 transposing of numbers when they're reading  
11 flap ear tags, and this completely avoids  
12 that. So that's a side benefit of having the  
13 electronic RFIDS. Anyway, that's a little bit  
14 of our story.

15 MR. JIM SANTOMASO: Man, I got three pages  
16 wrote down my big Chief tablet here and you guys  
17 take five minutes. I'm Jim Santomaso. I'm from  
18 Sterling Colorado. Our family has owned and  
19 operated the auction market there since  
20 1958. Of course, I may look like I've been  
21 there that long, but I haven't. The  
22 phase one through our operation, you've heard  
23 the marrying of the bright tags or  
24 the brucellosis tags to the back tag for bred  
25

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1 cows going interstate. We don't deal with very  
2 many Holsteins in our country, and in fact  
3 practically nil, so I have no experience at  
4 that. But that has worked fairly well. I  
5 understand electronic could be a lot faster.  
6

7 But you're getting paid for it, Doc, so get  
8 tough. We have Caviness Pack, is one of  
9 our cow buyers and of course they feed cows  
10 in Hereford, Texas. After those cows are  
11 purchased, they have to go through the chute to  
12 get that bright tag or whatever tag you may be  
13 using put in their ear recorded, the ICVI filled  
14 out. And our veterinarian that we have now, Dr.  
15 Roehr, is probably very appreciative, does  
16 it electronically instead of like our former vet  
17 that wrote it down and it looked like that slide  
18 you saw up there. But there's still, I'm not  
19 degrading Caviness, but they don't buy the big  
20 fleshy cows. They buy the thinner cows. Those  
21 cows will be more susceptible to injury going  
22 through that chute, and so there's drawbacks to  
23 that. As far as enforcement, and I'm going to  
24 take some time here, I'm sorry, but consistency  
25 of enforcement in the market owners' eyes is

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1 lacking, and severely lacking. We get  
2 inspected, USDA. State of Colorado comes  
3 in, makes sure we're doing everything right. I  
4 have yet to hear of a country buyer that  
5 trades them in the country, being inspected and  
6 make sure his records are there. I'm not real  
7 sure, but I don't think the video markets or the  
8 video companies are inspected to make sure that  
9 they're doing the interstate deals,  
10 right. We're kind of the low-hanging fruit. I  
11 mean we get we get inspected for that. We have  
12 to collect the check-off dollar. We have to  
13 check for the liens on the cattle. The  
14 responsibilities of running a market are a lot  
15 more than probably some of you out there  
16 know. We're responsible for all that. If we  
17 miss a lien, we're responsible. We get to pay  
18 twice. And so there's a lot of integral parts  
19 of running a market that maybe some of you out  
20 there don't know. And this field from here  
21 on has got to be leveled up. If you're going to  
22 check us, check everybody. Make sure  
23 everybody's doing it right, not just us that run  
24 markets. State import rules, all over the

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1 place. You heard Sina say some require all  
2 numbers on; some don't. Some require how many  
3 spots they have on them. It's a real headache  
4 for these, especially these guys  
5 shipping Holsteins, to comply or figure out how  
6 to comply and what they have to do to get into  
7 different states. And I realize that every  
8 state health official, excuse me Doc, thinks  
9 that their system is greatest on Earth. But  
10 there's got to be some marrying of things where  
11 it's simpler, it's easier. Instead of having to  
12 run them all back through the chute, and read  
13 every tag individually, you're getting into some  
14 costs there that nobody can define. You've got  
15 your - - shrink on the cattle. You've got  
16 injuries on the cattle. Our expenses at the  
17 markets go up. We have insurance increases,  
18 both human and livestock. There will be  
19 claims. Any time you work cattle, there's a  
20 chance that cattle or humans are going to be  
21 injured, and so our expenses go up there. You  
22 get to the end of the sale, and you have 200  
23 stock cows that need to be run through and  
24 branded. You have trucks sitting there waiting

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1 for the other 100 head of Holsteins that got to  
2 go out of state to be read. You're holding up  
3 the entire process. That's got to be somehow  
4 figured out. And then you're going to start  
5 running into the new trucking regulations. What  
6 happens there if, and I'm talking if we go to  
7 phase two, what happens when they're unloaded  
8 from Colorado and they're and loaded  
9 in Timbuktu waiting to go to state X, Y,  
10 Z? There are some complications out there that  
11 I don't know that anybody has really thought  
12 of. And I'm old, so I got to keep looking at my  
13 notes. Currently we can do trace  
14 backs, especially slaughter cattle, pretty  
15 easily back tag to owner, seller. It's been  
16 done. We eradicated brucellosis with back  
17 tags and orange tags, right? So you've got a  
18 partial system there to work on. We supply  
19 animal health people with information all the  
20 time. Joe Blow sold this cow. That back was  
21 8709. Went to Give and Pack [phonetic]. Of  
22 course they know the problems at Give and  
23 Pack. They come back here. That went to Joe  
24 Blow. In seconds, we can tell him, we can tell

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1 anybody within seconds where a consignor that  
2 sold a thousand head of cattle where every one  
3 of them ended up at. So there's ways  
4 there. Now I realize that the individual ID, I  
5 realize there's there is advantages. But  
6 there's also some setbacks if we don't do it  
7 right. And in moving, I know Neil you said  
8 there's no, we're not talking phase two, but I  
9 think we are. So I'm going to address that  
10 somewhat. If, and we you have the book-in  
11 system, so if we're going to make mandatory ID,  
12 let's not make the markets read them. Let's not  
13 make the markets put the tags in. Once again,  
14 expenses and mostly speed of commerce. Now I am  
15 by no means a large market. In the fall  
16 we'll have 3,000, 3,500 Ballen  
17 [phonetic] calves on sale day. I would say out  
18 of 3,000, 2,500 of them will come in sale  
19 day morning starting at, time they get them  
20 sorted off the cows and go through whatever they  
21 need to go through, they won't start arriving to  
22 my place until 9:00, 9:30. We start the auction  
23 at 11: 30, and I would say 2,500 would be  
24 extremely close out of 3000 for us, how are we  
25

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1 possibly going to ear-tag 2,500 head of cattle,  
2 and I'm ready to hit the ring and go through  
3 when they're supposed to, it's impossible. It  
4 cannot happen. So if we're going to have--uh-  
5 huh? That's exactly right, and I'm getting to  
6 that. If we're going to have that, let's make  
7 it, I hate to make this statement, but let's  
8 make the producer where that animal  
9 is birthed at, put that tag in, and that tag's  
10 read at the slaughterhouse, or  
11 collected. If there is a problem in between  
12 those two points, that tag is still referenced  
13 back to the birth place. Okay,  
14 if those calves have been sold at one of our  
15 markets in the fall, we have that information,  
16 and it's instant. Most all of us are  
17 computerized. Some aren't, but most of us  
18 are. My wife can punch in whatever, can sign  
19 her name, date, whatever, and tell you where all  
20 of those went, which I stated before. So I  
21 cannot see a need for a read in between birth  
22 and slaughter. If we have to read them the cost  
23 is going to be astronomical to the industry, not  
24 just to us, but to the industry. If all the

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1 markets have to retrofit for readers, that have  
2 to be in, and I might be wrong, they have to be  
3 run through there one at a time, or staggered at  
4 least. There's no way, the way to read them  
5 is after they purchased. And if you're going to  
6 have to slow the flow down out of the ring to  
7 make them go through one at a time, there you  
8 go. You've stopped a sale again. You've got  
9 some more shrink for that. That buyer, or if  
10 you do it ahead of time for the producer, you're  
11 into that the health problems again, the stress  
12 on the cattle, the shrink, the holding up of the  
13 sale, the holding up of the load-out  
14 part. To me, and this is just my personal  
15 opinion, I don't I'm not meaning to speak for  
16 all the market owners that are here, but put the  
17 tag and when it's born, collect it when it's  
18 gone. If there's a problem in between, you know  
19 who that tag is assigned to. So I don't think  
20 that slows your trace down a whole lot,  
21 maybe a tiny, not much. And like I say, the  
22 cost would be astronomical in my eyes, if the  
23 markets have got to retrofit all the all the  
24 things that will happen to the animals and the  
25

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1 humans that are working those animals, the  
2 shrink, I'd like USDA to do a study on what it  
3 would cost and the benefits, if any. Neil has  
4 said, I'm picking on you Neil, 90% compliance is  
5 acceptable. Well, in our business if we do 90%  
6 of the job, it is not acceptable. Do we tell  
7 the other 10% that are not identified or not  
8 traceable you can't get a disease, we don't have  
9 you in the system, so you stay healthy? I don't  
10 know how you can have a true--there you are  
11 Neil, sorry, I don't know how you can have a  
12 true traceability system with 90%. If it's not  
13 a 100%, or that's in a perfect world, but 99% at  
14 least, how do you have a traceability  
15 system? If one of those 10% are the infected  
16 one, you're exactly where we were ten years ago,  
17 nowheres. So I don't think that that 90% is  
18 acceptable. I don't think USDA should accept  
19 90%. Like I say it's got to be crowding 100, or  
20 else your traceability system as far as I am  
21 concerned, is not a traceability system. It's a  
22 guess. Technology-wise, we're not there. You  
23 just heard me say the readers. You have to  
24 single-file or at least stagger. There's no way

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1 that works in a market. There's no way that  
2 works at the speed of commerce. Weather  
3 conditions, tags might work, might not  
4 work. You have to keep in mind, I know in in  
5 the Midwest, but this is an effect of the entire  
6 United States. You take, Larry Schnell is here  
7 from North Dakota. It's 40 below, the  
8 wind's blowing 50 miles an hour, and he's got 6  
9 ft. of snow on the ground. Are those tags and  
10 those readers going to work? Probably not. And  
11 Neil I've questioned you, and I'm picking on  
12 you again, you say you cannot dictate the  
13 technology. If we're going to have to read  
14 these tags at the markets, that technology has  
15 got to be something on the wall in the  
16 ring. Bang, they're read, they're out the door,  
17 it's in the computer system, you're done. And  
18 you know, I realize the low frequency they say  
19 can't be done that way. I got a phone I can do  
20 dang near anything on. Don't tell me the  
21 technology isn't out there if somebody doesn't  
22 push to get it done. You've got to be able to  
23 bang, they're read and ring. They're gone; it's  
24 over with. No stress, no more nothing. It's

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1 all done, it's all in the computer system. And  
2 USDA's database doc, I'm going to pick on you  
3 now, will you tell us how easy that is to  
4 access?  
5

6 MALE VOICE 1: There are some barriers there  
7 and Jim, since you've opened that door, I'll  
8 include that in my comments when I get to that  
9 section. I'll go into a little bit more detail.

10 MR. SANTOMASO: Chicken. You'll touch on  
11 it, okay. So I've taken mine and everybody  
12 else's time, but let's get the bugs out of what  
13 we have now. Let's make this work and work at  
14 100% before we ever even consider phase  
15 two. And there's lots of hurdles out  
16 there. And when we do get that corrected, let's  
17 take some baby steps, okay. And my thoughts  
18 would be let's put this electronic tag in all  
19 the Bangs-vaccinated heifers and stop  
20 there. Make that work. And then we can maybe  
21 think about moving onto the feeder  
22 steers and the feeder heifers. And let's figure  
23 out the real cost, and let's not do something  
24 where it's so cost-prohibitive that the small  
25 producer and the small auction markets have to

1 fold. You can, and I've heard people say well  
2 they don't do it right, they don't need to be in  
3 the business anyway. Well, bull crap. Their  
4 choice, this is still America. If they want to  
5 raise a calf and never give it a shot and never  
6 cut it and never see it and go gather them out  
7 of trees once a year in portable panels, and  
8 market them, that's their prerogative. They're  
9 going to get plenty of deductions at the market  
10 anyway. And if you've got a little market that  
11 sells 15, 18,000 cattle a year, and they have  
12 to tags, without somebody's assistance  
13 put in those readers, they're going to fold  
14 the tent, because they cannot afford  
15 it. So that's the end of my soapbox. I'm  
16 done.

17  
18 DR. ROEHR: I'm Keith Roehr. I'm the  
19 Colorado State veterinarian. Graduated from  
20 veterinary school in 1981, and I spent 14 years  
21 in private practice, and then came to the  
22 Colorado Department of Agriculture in 1995. For  
23 the last ten years I've either been acting or in  
24 the position of state veterinarian. So I've  
25 witnessed the prior years of

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1 the national animal identification system that  
2 went through a number of federal  
3 administrations. And probably had some good  
4 ideas, and then perhaps I think evidently, some  
5 decisions that looking back could have been done  
6 differently. That said in the years 2010 and  
7 '11 I worked with Neil Hammerschmidt on the  
8 traceability task force. And I don't think  
9 it's a perfect rule by any means, but I will say  
10 this. I've been through a number of USDA rule-  
11 making procedures. That one's the gold standard  
12 for including states' participation. And when  
13 that rule was drafted, there were no  
14 surprises. We knew exactly what was  
15 there. We've had other rules that have been in  
16 the process, I'm not exaggerating,  
17 for eight to ten years and they still, we've  
18 seen drafts, but they're stuck in the  
19 process, and I think that's, I'm hoping perhaps  
20 in this administration rule-making procedures  
21 can be revisited to, if you cannot do it in a  
22 timely process, - - rule and Colorado Department  
23 of Agriculture took ten years, that just won't  
24 work, and the system is stymied. It's the not

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1 the fault of any of the people that are in the  
2 process with USDA. I think that's an  
3 administrative, perhaps at the secretary or  
4 above. But the rule that we have, in 2013  
5 clearly when we saw that adult cattle had to be  
6 officially ID'd and listed on certificates of  
7 veterinary inspection, it was it was a change in  
8 the game. And we understood what that meant,  
9 and what our role as state health officials  
10 would be. And then we've tried to collaborate  
11 with our producers and USDA to try to move  
12 forward in that regard. So with that, that rule  
13 changed the way we do business in the Colorado  
14 Department of Agriculture. You saw the picture  
15 that Dr. Geiser-Novotny showed of the people  
16 looking through certificates boxes. That's real  
17 life. That was looking for horses  
18 from six counties in Texas that  
19 had equine piroplasmiasis. And we had a number  
20 of boxes that are 18 in. thick of paper, and we  
21 went through every individual paper. We weren't  
22 looking at the whole - -. We're looking for two  
23 things: were they from those counties in  
24 Texas, and if they were, then we pulled them out

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1 and said are they horses? If they were cattle,  
2 we'd put them back in. That's not what we were  
3 looking for, but I will tell you  
4 this. We figured out very quickly had that been  
5 cattle that we were looking for  
6 from six counties, we would have gone  
7 from eight boxes down to three and then we'd  
8 have been sitting in front of piles of paper,  
9 still looking for the same information. What I  
10 quickly realized is the system doesn't work. It  
11 worked well for brucellosis in the day where  
12 you're looking for individual animals, and you  
13 had some history and a date set that you could  
14 go back to. And even then it was a time-  
15 consuming process, and it might have taken weeks  
16 or months to find that piece of paper to locate  
17 the animal of interest. So, and then as I said  
18 before, there's not as many cattle ID'd in the  
19 world that we live in today, as in the heart of  
20 the brucellosis eradication effort. So one  
21 fundamental change that we just experienced in  
22 Colorado was we had an import requirement  
23 for Bangs testing of all non-OCV age-eligible  
24 cattle in the state of Colorado. So if you were

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1 shipping in from Kansas and they weren't OCVs,  
2 had to be be tested. And there was really a  
3 motivation for producers, vaccinate your  
4 cattle. And at the time it was for immunity,  
5 and in time it became also a tool for  
6 traceability.  
7

8 But what occurred is USDA came to us and  
9 said why are you doing first point testing in  
10 your markets? And the answer as well it's  
11 really not first point testing. It's an  
12 import requirement to protect the health of our  
13 herds and to augment traceability. And they  
14 said well you can't use the test in that  
15 regard. So we were using the Bangs test for  
16 cattle imported that were non-vaccinates. We  
17 could no longer do that. So what did we do? We  
18 dropped our test requirement. We had to,  
19 because the speed of commerce would have been  
20 affected because we could not meet through our  
21 livestock auction markets that testing  
22 requirement. And it was a day and an age where  
23 the risk of disease had passed. But the number  
24 of cattle that are ID'd by Bangs vaccination has  
25 changed. So if they weren't tested, they didn't

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1  
2 get another tag put in or they didn't get  
3 recorded, and the way veterinarians got paid in  
4 markets changed very rapidly. So there were a  
5 number of challenges with that.

6 So again with the requirement of adult  
7 cattle being officially ID's and listed on  
8 certificates of veterinary inspection, change  
9 what we did, and we went to our commissioner at  
10 the time, John Salazar. And we said we've got  
11 to have a database to be able to keep this  
12 information. We can't store what we do  
13 paper. And we were fortunate that the timing  
14 was right. We had some funding, and we  
15 bought USAHerds' database. There are 18 states  
16 in the United States that use that, talk about  
17 that a little bit later. I think when the dust  
18 settles, there'll probably be half the states  
19 using that software system within state animal  
20 health officials offices. That every document  
21 that we get and all that paper that you saw that  
22 picture, those pictures we have a person who  
23 first looks at the certificate to see if it's  
24 got all the testing requirements, and  
25 it's complete. Then it goes to data entry

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1 people. And if they can't read it, and they  
2 can't enter a data field that's required,  
3 they pick up the phone, and they call the  
4 veterinary clinic say in Oklahoma and they say  
5 I've got a certificate here from Dr. Smith, and  
6 I can't read it. He's not here; I can patch you  
7 through to his cellphone. And what's been  
8 amazing over, didn't take very long, year and a  
9 half, two years of time, veterinarians learned  
10 if you send something to Colorado, if I don't  
11 write legibly or if I do not fill in the  
12 information and I do not include a physical  
13 address that's a true location, they're going to  
14 call me. So the accuracy of our certificates in  
15 the data that they contain improved  
16 markedly. And it's just a communication,  
17 and you know what we found out is veterinarians  
18 got, you got three responses from an incomplete  
19 certificate in the past. Could you to stamp it  
20 with a red stamp, send in the mail? They threw  
21 out the trash and ignored you and ticked. Or  
22 they'd pick up the phone and call you, and they  
23 were ticked. Or occasionally get a veterinarian  
24 say how can I do better? What'll I do in the  
25

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1 future? It was a bad customer service  
2 system. When we picked up the phone, we had a  
3 friendly voice saying I need some information,  
4 they develop personal relationships, and that  
5 conversation begat a change in the way we do  
6 business. They weren't resentful when we needed  
7 the information. They understood why we needed  
8 it. So the next step of tools that came about,  
9 we were sitting in our office one day, and we  
10 said can't there be a better tool than the paper  
11 certificate that we used? We had a person in  
12 our office who was pretty savvy with Adobe  
13 documents, PDF files, fillable forms. We  
14 created a form in Colorado that was a fillable  
15 PDF that could live on a laptop that looked  
16 just like a certificate and had required fields,  
17 and they could type in information into  
18 it. Kansas took that system collaboratively and  
19 put it on steroids and made it interactive so  
20 that the data, and I think is a key point, the  
21 data that was on that laptop system, when we  
22 received it into USAHerds, our database, the  
23 data automatically flowed to, in our database,  
24 cosigner, consignee, species, age, breed, sex,  
25

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1 in those required fields. We're not doing  
2 keystrokes to enter that information. And  
3 folks, you order a widget off of Amazon, and  
4 they'll tell you where it is. And I think our  
5 public and our food supply would expect that we  
6 could do the same with cattle and other  
7 livestock. So that document changed the way we  
8 did business. A short period of time later,  
9 Texas A&M, who we did some collaborative work  
10 with, this came to us and said we've got a  
11 system where we're asking equine veterinarians  
12 to use an iPad device to give some real-time  
13 surveillance information. What did you see  
14 today, respiratory problems, abortions, what  
15 have you. And in that system they said they're  
16 not using this very much. What could we do that  
17 would make them use it more? We said could you  
18 do a mobile certificate veterinary  
19 inspection? And somebody joked and said there  
20 ought to be an app for that. And six months  
21 later there was an application. That's  
22 the MCVI that lives on Apple devices, but now  
23 it's Droid devices as well. And when a  
24 veterinarian and the field fills out that  
25

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1 document it's very friendly. And they hit send  
2 whether they're in coverage or not. They don't  
3 need a cell phone signal; they don't need  
4 a wireless signal. It's truly mobile. They hit  
5 send, and it goes to my state if it's a Colorado  
6 veterinarian. And it's going to Kansas, it  
7 sends real-time to the state of  
8 destination. Again, it's not moving  
9 an image. An image is no different than  
10 paper. You have to enter every  
11 data field. It's moving data that goes into  
12 those fields. The other point with both of  
13 those devices is that the data standards are not  
14 apples and oranges. They are United States  
15 Animal Health Association data standards-  
16 specific so that if a veterinarian in Maryland  
17 uses this device and fills in that information,  
18 it's the same data standard as what is used in  
19 Oklahoma or Texas or Colorado. So the tools are  
20 in place and have advanced what we do  
21 tremendously. The veterinarians that use this,  
22 we have a veterinarian in our office who was  
23 in a private equine practice. Before he even  
24 knew us, he was using the ECVI, the tablet

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1 device to do certificates for horses. He  
2 estimated it saved him about two  
3 to five minutes of time per certificate that he  
4 filled out. He just found it as a cost-  
5 effective business plus for him to use that  
6 tool. He added that up at the end of the  
7 year, and it may not mean much. It meant  
8 something to him. It saved him two days  
9 of time. How many of us would like to get back  
10 two days of life? I think our families would  
11 appreciate that.  
12

13 So these tools are interesting. Further  
14 we've just released a device for equine  
15 testing. Every horse that crosses a state  
16 border in the United States has to have an  
17 equine infectious anemia test. About a month  
18 ago we released an application. Again we worked  
19 with a private company this time,  
20 Computer Aid Incorporated. They're company that  
21 developed USAHerds. That equine infectious  
22 anemia application will take a picture using a  
23 device imported onto that document, and it fills  
24 in all the other fields. And again it's not a  
25 static image. It moves data. Within a month of

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1 that being released in our laboratory in  
2 Colorado, our Colorado Department of Ag lab, we  
3 have over 100 veterinarians that are  
4 users. They've done over 300 of the tests  
5 submissions. That number sales probably closer  
6 to 500 now in a month. In one day just  
7 recently, 36 of 57 tests that came in, used the  
8 device. Yesterday 14 out of 14 used  
9 the device. I think the point is, this is some  
10 of it's generational. Some of it's young people  
11 who use electronics, and they prefer that. My  
12 son just graduated from Colorado State  
13 University, never took a paper test in his life  
14 at school. They're not going to be asking for  
15 paper applications to do business. But the  
16 reality too is just to see if we could do it, we  
17 worked with veterinarians that are a generation  
18 north of me in age. They use these. Took some  
19 coaching, but you know what? They found that  
20 they work, and they found again that they  
21 saved them time, so we're excited about the  
22 future. So what's the benefit of this? 55% of  
23 the certificates of veterinary inspection that  
24 leave Colorado today are electronic. So 55% of

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1 the data that comes into our system is  
2 automatically integrated into our database. We  
3 do no keystrokes, and we have that  
4 information. It's a standard format, and it's  
5 retrievable. We're not going to boxes of paper  
6 anymore. As a matter of fact we shredded the  
7 last paper document that we have. We have no  
8 more paper. We did that last fall.  
9 Unfortunately, 7% of our important certificates  
10 are electronic, the move data. So  
11 I'm putting out 55% because we've trained our  
12 accredited veterinarians in that regard. But  
13 only receiving 7, so I'm a little bit  
14 frustrated. I'd like to see some advancement in  
15 that area and I'll talk about that just a  
16 bit. In that same period of time in the last  
17 few years when we've gone from paper to an  
18 electronic system for 55% of  
19 our certificates, we didn't sit idle. So in a  
20 time set in the beginning of that process and  
21 where we're at today, and one point we looked  
22 and we said well how many individual animal  
23 identifications official ear tags, how much of  
24 that data did we put in? And we found we put in

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1 about 10,000 head in a three-month time  
2 span. We went back just recently and said  
3 what are we doing now, and it was 30,000. So  
4 we've have tripled that. Some of those are  
5 small numbers. If it's five, ten head or less  
6 we'll key punch those numbers in. We've also  
7 found when we contact veterinarians in states of  
8 origin, and our people are savvy at this, they  
9 kind of get an uncton that that information  
10 might live electronically. And they'll call the  
11 veterinarian in another state. You know what  
12 they find? It's on a thumb drive. It's in an  
13 XML format. They didn't have to scribble all  
14 those numbers down. Sometimes the producers  
15 have that information. More and more it's going  
16 to exist that way, but they send us a data set,  
17 and we'll flush 150 tags into a system. And  
18 every one is as accurate as it exists on  
19 here. And if they're read, they're  
20 accurate. So we're getting more data in, and we  
21 can pull more out. And we're finding in this TB  
22 trace we're in today, it's pretty amazing what  
23 we can find when we query that fast, that before  
24 was virtually impossible. Interstate movement  
25

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1 of adult cattle, we've had great advances in two  
2 areas that required no regulation  
3 changes. Commuter cattle, I had a past  
4 president of the Colorado Livestock Association  
5 come to me at a meeting one time. And he said  
6 Doc, I just got billed for a CVI certificate of  
7 veterinary inspection. I got hit, this \$350  
8 dollars. He said before cost 30; what's  
9 wrong? Well, they were springers coming back  
10 from stocks in Nebraska. We don't have a  
11 commuter agreement with them. The  
12 veterinarian had to run those cattle through  
13 the chute and read their IDs. And I said do you  
14 know the cattle's ID numbers? Do you have  
15 that? And he, what do you mean? And I said are  
16 they OCVs? Are they vaccinates? Yeah  
17 they're vaccinates. I said do you have  
18 someplace data, their numbers? He says my wife  
19 does. I said how is it? And he said it's  
20 a spreadsheet. He could have put, this is  
21 a knife, could have put it on a thumb  
22 drive, and he could have sent it to us. And  
23 there was no need to run those cattle through  
24 the chute. We would have been elated to receive

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1 that information electronically where it's  
2 accurate rather than having a veterinarian run  
3 cattle through a chute and write numbers  
4 down. So there's other ways of doing business  
5 that work today where we need to think outside  
6 the box. Approve feed lots, Colorado worked  
7 with our livestock associations in the state  
8 about ten, eight, ten years ago Bill, to receive  
9 cattle from downgraded states. Montana lost  
10 their brucellosis free status, and they needed  
11 to move off of grass to La Junta. And they had  
12 no ID. And we figured out a system where we  
13 could either move them to market as a tagging  
14 station, or they could be moved to feed in  
15 a feed lot and be tagged upon arrival. And  
16 they'd just cross-reference whatever ID or brand  
17 they had and know where they came from and then  
18 officially ID them on arrival.

19  
20 I was chastised by another state animal  
21 health official in 2013 when the traceability  
22 rule came in. How'd do you guys do this? You  
23 guys, you can't have a system that's fully  
24 developed. I said yeah, we do. We developed it  
25 a number of years ago, and we did it for

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1                   ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY MEETING                   90  
2           downgraded states.   But it works today for  
3           traceability, and we found the feed lots who  
4           consign the feed keep pretty darn good  
5           records.   So do livestock auction markets.   So  
6           there's other ways of doing business that can  
7           preclude the need of writing individual cattle  
8           through chutes to get the information we need.

9           Data security, everybody's worried about  
10          what we have in data, and every state is  
11          different.   I will tell you in Colorado the bane  
12          of my existence is the Colorado Open Records  
13          Act request.   It's like a FOIA, freedom of  
14          information act.   I hate them, but I'm elated  
15          when I get one about livestock.   You know  
16          why?   Because we are not required to release  
17          information on specific producers, and by the  
18          time we redact the information out that is  
19          protected, there's nothing left.

20          So your data is secure.   We use it for  
21          animal health purposes and nothing else.   And  
22          when it's been requested by media or whatever  
23          means where somebody is just wondering what the  
24          state's got, I'm elated to tell them here's the  
25          information, and there's nothing there.   The

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1 other benefit that we're finding, and I've got  
2 a little picture of, do you know what a Venn  
3 diagram is? It's the three overlapping  
4 circles. We found that for years our role as a  
5 state animal health official was to deal with  
6 program disease, brucellosis and tuberculosis,  
7 and eradicate those diseases. They're not  
8 eradicated, but their economic risk has been  
9 much reduced. Not always true with TB, but  
10 certainly brucellosis. Program disease is what  
11 we did. That was our main role. We protected  
12 our state borders with import  
13 requirements. To the world we live in today,  
14 for business continuity foreign animal disease  
15 is a real risk. USDA has done a lot to posture  
16 to where we understand more clearly what are our  
17 requirements as states in the event of a disease  
18 outbreak? We learned a lot with avian  
19 influenza. It may not apply specifically to  
20 cattle, but a lot of it may, or a lot of  
21 it will. So we have to manage  
22 program disease. We have to manage emergency  
23 management or foreign animal or new and emerging  
24 diseases.  
25

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1                   We've even found with all hazards events,  
2 blizzards, fires, tornadoes, that the data that  
3 we have is of value. And we've worked with our  
4 state emergency operations center. When  
5 cattlemen called us and they said the roads  
6 are closed, I can get into my cattle, what's  
7 wrong, we knew the people in the emergency  
8 operations center. And we were able to work  
9 with them and take it and map a fire perimeter  
10 and then use our data that we keep to ourselves  
11 and work with cattlemen, that we created a hall  
12 pass system with the state emergency operations  
13 center were cattlemen could get a hall pass, go  
14 in and take care of their livestock, and  
15 work in an organized manner with local law  
16 enforcement.

17                   So we never dreamed that we'd use the  
18 information that we have while it's protected to  
19 the benefit of normal pressures in emergencies  
20 like fires. So with that I that the, in a  
21 nutshell, and I can't speak for other states. I  
22 don't feel that we need new  
23 regulations. I'm certainly open to changes or  
24 differences in ID. And any time you make a  
25

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1 rule, I know that from our state rules, they're  
2 living documents. They always benefit from  
3 tweaks and changes and reviews. But I think  
4 today where are we at and what could change to  
5 the benefit?  
6

7 Producers today that individually identify  
8 their cattle for production purposes in the west  
9 is very common. And I've been told that  
10 guesstimates in Colorado are probably somewhere  
11 around 75% at least use a ranch tag just to ID  
12 their cattle so they know what age they are and  
13 individual keeping of records. The point today,  
14 if you use a ranch tag that's not official  
15 ID, to upgrade to a USDA official tag, just  
16 a visual tag, is 3 to 7 cents per tag. And it  
17 depends on how much data you print on the  
18 tags. You can put your brand on there and you  
19 can put your logo on there, whatever. But if  
20 it's an official ID, 15-digit tag, you can have  
21 them printed whatever color, whatever size,  
22 electronic, just visual, whatever it is, there  
23 is a benefit in those being. 'Cause  
24 as Jim Santomaso said, if they'd ID someplace  
25 close to their birth that has value for breeding

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1 cattle. So if every placement heifer in the  
2 United States was officially ID'd, we got our  
3 bookend.  
4

5 And if you ID your cattle for production  
6 reasons, there's a tag that works for you  
7 today. Your tag distributors and manufacturers  
8 can plug that in. So are our  
9 Colorado Cattlemen's Association came to us  
10 early on, and they got it. And you know what  
11 they said? We want one tag for all  
12 purposes. And those systems are there  
13 today. So for producers, ID your cattle. I  
14 think there's a there's a market benefit for  
15 that today. There is a disease prevention  
16 benefit for that today. Veterinarians, using  
17 the tools that are available, if you're me,  
18 I'd struggle to do this, but I try to learn  
19 because I think it's probably like eating  
20 oatmeal. It's right thing to do.

21 But the other point is don't do some things  
22 that subvert the system. Don't uniformly  
23 reapply another official ID on top of  
24 existing ID. Real situation, South Dakota  
25 cattle go to Wyoming, are sold

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1 at Torrington. And 15 head of animals of  
2 interest that are from the index herd, hey got  
3 grouped mix. That's what markets do. There's  
4 nothing wrong with that. But the whole group  
5 got re-identified. And instead of marrying up a  
6 back tag with their official ID, then they got  
7 sold out to five producers.

8  
9 So guess what? We got five ranches to go  
10 to, and probably only one of them is the one we  
11 need to go to. So four ranchers are going to  
12 have their herds inventoried. When we really  
13 don't need to bother them, we shouldn't have to  
14 do that. State animal health officials, improve  
15 the processes that you have. Colorado isn't  
16 perfect, but we've had some people that are  
17 smarter than I am that can do the business part  
18 of this. And we've had a software system that  
19 worked for us. We're not the only state  
20 that's moved in the right direction. A number  
21 of states are, and most of them are Western  
22 states.

23 We need to be able to accept data that's a  
24 common standard that's approved USHA,  
25 United States Animal Health Association's

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1 approved it. It needs a few tweaks, but it's  
2 pretty good. That's the data set that we need  
3 to use, and the tools are there. We just need  
4 to not be an impediment to send and receive that  
5 data. We need to train our veterinarians in our  
6 states to use these tools. That's where the  
7 business happens out in the field. Then last,  
8 USDA. Jim, you spoke to this, so I added  
9 it in. We need to improve the ability to  
10 receive data.  
11

12 About a third of the states today are  
13 USAHerds databases. About a third of them are  
14 home-built databases, and I'll stop on that just  
15 a minute. Washington, Oregon state animal health  
16 officials called us one day, and we said we've  
17 heard about your MCVI. We think we want to  
18 bridge that data into our private system. And  
19 they said do you see a problem with us doing  
20 that? That's like say sic him to a bulldog.

21 I said do it and they are, so the MCVI data  
22 is flowing into states who built their own  
23 systems. But today, and Neil, I understand, and  
24 you're not you're not the IT guy, I get  
25 that. Firewalls and data security are huge. We

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1 all understand the manifest when something goes  
2 wrong, when Target loses your credit card  
3 information and it gets sold to  
4 hackers. There's no data that's 100%  
5 secure. But we've got to have the ability, and  
6 about a third of the states use a system  
7 that USDA provided and USDA uses. It's called  
8 SES. And Jim, I'm not sure if that's what  
9 you're referring to, but they've got to be able  
10 to receive the same data into those systems  
11 because I have a feeling that's why I'm  
12 receiving 7% of my import certificates  
13 electronically, as opposed to 55% that we put  
14 out in export certificates.

16 I think if other states were receiving that  
17 data and they saw it populate their system  
18 automatically, they'd probably have more of a  
19 motivation to train their private practicing  
20 veterinarians in the field to use the new  
21 tools. I know it's coming, and we've had the  
22 conversations. And actually, I'm hearing some  
23 positive reports. Sooner would be  
24 better. And maybe some communication in the  
25 interim about where is that process and what are

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1 the impediments and if there's a way  
2 we or producers can help grease the skids,  
3 we'd be pleased to do that.

4 So in a nutshell, that's kind of my view;  
5 this is one of my passions. We want to  
6 be effective as states to protect our livestock  
7 industries. I feel better about where we're at  
8 today, but we've got a long ways to move in the  
9 future, and I believe the future is  
10 bright. Thank you.

11 MS. MILLIS: I want to thank all of those on  
12 the panel.

13 MALE VOICE 2: I was able to get some Wi-Fi  
14 for the room. I'm just going to put up there,  
15 the call letters are USDA2017. USDA is in all  
16 caps.

17 MS. MILLIS: Thank you. So I have  
18 distributed that to many of you as you've have  
19 been talking, and it's up here, and I have a  
20 copy of it to if you need it close up. So I  
21 want to thank all of our panel members for  
22 sharing today but give you an opportunity to ask  
23 questions of them that may have come up for  
24 you. So if you have any questions for the  
25

1 panel let us know. Yes, right in the back  
2 there, Anne.

4 MALE VOICE 3: I respect the old deal and  
5 respect what the sale barns are saying and all  
6 that, but you're talking about that technology  
7 can read these tags? Who all can read them  
8 tags? I mean you don't have to have a password  
9 or anything to read those tags, do you?

10 MALE VOICE 4: I speak to some. The low  
11 frequency tags every read distance a few feet,  
12 maybe 3 ft. max. And all it really says in the  
13 end, if you go to an official tag, is who the  
14 tag was issued to. But that data is not, and  
15 help me Neil, that data is not viewable. If  
16 it's an official tag, it's in the  
17 AIN database. And when you, if you as a  
18 producer order those tags, all you do is give a  
19 premise ID number. And USDA looks in the system  
20 and all they see, they don't see any data behind  
21 it. They say yep, that's an official  
22 number. And they'll send tags to that  
23 producer. But there's no data that anybody can  
24 see behind that tag, so premise, location,  
25 address, none of that's there. Just says the

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1 animal's ID. And then if a state animal health  
2 official, or a USDA animal health official finds  
3 that as an animal of interest, then they can  
4 query through you all the data. Am I correct in  
5 that, Neil?

7 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Yeah, and I understand  
8 maybe the first question was reading the tag  
9 itself. And so the tag for our purposes only  
10 has one piece of information, and that's the  
11 animal's ID number. There's no information  
12 about the producer, the premises stored on that  
13 tag unless you buy that type of tag  
14 yourself. But for the tags, they're basically  
15 the equivalent of a visual tag, but it can be  
16 read electronically. But the information is the  
17 same, an individual animal number.

18 MALE VOICE 3: Yeah, but is not the US  
19 Forest Service part of USDA? BLM's a bunch of  
20 bureaucrats too. I just don't believe that you  
21 need a national animal ID whenever you run. I  
22 can respect everybody over here in  
23 Eastern Colorado that don't have to run on  
24 BML and Forest Service land. But the intrusion  
25 on them people are something. And they look for

1 anything to kick you off of anything. So that's  
2 another thing that needs to be thought  
3 about, is any government program can come back  
4 to bite you pretty hard. That's basically what  
5 all the bureaucracies involve.  
6

7 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, sir. Any other  
8 questions for the panel?

9 MALE VOICE 4: There's one back there. If I  
10 could intervene one second before that, since  
11 there are no questions why don't we open it up  
12 for comments also?

13 MS. MILLIS: Well, we're going to take a  
14 break here in a little bit, and then we will  
15 have an open mic session afterwards.

16 MALE VOICE 4: Super, 'cause there's a lot  
17 of smart ones--

18 MS. MILLIS: [Interposing] We just want to  
19 make sure if any folks have questions for all of  
20 you.

21 MALE VOICE 4: --out there than me.

22  
23 MS. MILLIS: Great, great suggestion. Back  
24 here? Okay. Any other questions for the panel,  
25 before we break? Yes, ma'am? Let me pass you

1  
2 my mic.

3 MALE VOICE 5: What are you doing as far as  
4 enforcement in the country to track, or cattle  
5 moving across state lines that don't go through  
6 one of our auction markets? Any thoughts on  
7 that?

8 DR. ROEHR: From a state perspective...we're  
9 a brand state, so any cattle that move across  
10 and change ownership brands connects with, and  
11 our brand inspectors have been helpful to check  
12 for requirements of certificates of veterinary  
13 inspection, I don't know what level of commerce  
14 crosses without, not naive, there's probably a  
15 significant number of cattle coming into  
16 the state without, when we find it happens and  
17 if there is a disease risk, we have civil fining  
18 authority that's streamlined and we use, if we  
19 know someone who's been disingenuous. We have a  
20 tremendous amount of patience with people who  
21 don't know, and we see those as teachable  
22 moments. Veterinarians that re-tag or do other  
23 things that are problematic, if it was just  
24 something we discovered, but it didn't really  
25 create an issue, we see that as a teachable

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1 moment, and we just talk. It's part of  
2 education. In this situation recently where  
3 somebody's got to go out do extra work  
4 that hassles other producers, leave that  
5 to USDA. USDA you has enforcement services. I  
6 don't know. Sometimes there's a teachable  
7 moment; sometimes there's a Dutch rub. And then  
8 sometimes there's a higher scale of enforcement  
9 that's appropriate.  
10

11 MS. MILLIS: Yes sir, over here.

12 MR. LARRY KENDIG: I have a question for the  
13 gentleman here. Larry Kendig from Kansas,  
14 producer, cow/calf. The guy at the - -  
15 here, what kind of frequency are you running  
16 high frequency or low frequency tags?

17 DR. VALEZ: High frequency.

18 MR. KENDIG: How much do those cost you per...

19 DR. VALEZ: Could you repeat the question?

20 MR. KENDIG: You low frequency tags or  
21 high frequency?

22 DR. VALEZ: The low frequency tag.

23 MR. KENDIG: Okay. So how much does that  
24 amount to per head when you use that?

25 DR. VALEZ: About \$2.50.

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1 MR. KENDIG: Okay. Have you ever tried high  
2 frequencies or problems with that?  
3

4 DR. VALEZ: No sir, I haven't.

5 MR. KENDIG: Okay.

6 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, sir. Any other  
7 questions for the panel?

8 MALE VOICE 6: USDA and APHIS have been  
9 providing RFID ear tags to the country of  
10 Columbia, for the traceability efforts. Could  
11 you please illustrate or explain how that's been  
12 working?

13 DR. PARSAYE: I don't have a lot of  
14 knowledge other than our ranch was one of the  
15 test ranches, where the government was providing  
16 them for free, and I'm sure that's where the  
17 money is coming from. And he's working very  
18 well so far for us. We have to do, similar to  
19 the traceability problems here, but for food and  
20 mouth vaccination it's regulated. You have to  
21 buy the vaccine and document that you're  
22 getting it done. Also if you want to be a TB-  
23 free herd or a brucellosis-free herd, the  
24 government does the testing. And it has been  
25 extremely helpful to have those RFIDs. Also for

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1 transportation of cattle, it has been very easy  
2 now to get the license for transportation for  
3 us, but we are one of the testing herds.

4 MS. MILLIS: Let me get a mic for you, Mr.  
5 Hunt.

6 MR. HUNT: Thank you, a clarification of the  
7 question would be why USDA and APHIS  
8 is providing tags to the country of Colombia for  
9 traceability.

10 DR. PARSAYE: Oh, I would have no idea. But  
11 I will tell you there could be a connection that  
12 I could tell you. Speculation, in the  
13 Brahman cattle purebred business, you hear a lot  
14 of, it may not be related to it, but I give you  
15 something that worries me a lot. You hear a lot  
16 of rumors about people smuggling embryos into  
17 Central America, pure Brahman embryos into  
18 Central America. You don't know, I don't know  
19 what kind of methodology is being used to watch  
20 the embryos them - - or all the methodology  
21 that is...

22 MS. MILLIS: Welcome back. We'll get started  
23 here in just a couple of minutes. Welcome back,  
24 folks. And while she's up here. I wanted to  
25

1  
2 thank Mildred Bundy for getting us the Wi-Fi  
3 password. So if you folks don't have that I  
4 have another copy of it up here. All  
5 righty. So Sunny, I have a few questions as  
6 you're coming up.

7 For either one of you, a couple of questions  
8 have come up during the break. And one is if  
9 you could repeat the date of the Omaha meeting  
10 once again? July 18th. And where will that be  
11 will announced? Will that be on the  
12 website? Okay, an additional federal knows will  
13 come out about that one. And about the Texas  
14 meaning as well.

15 MALE VOICE 4: We will be extending the  
16 comment period beyond those two meeting dates to  
17 make sure that we keep the opportunity open for  
18 comments, through July.

19 MS. MILLIS: Thank you. And this next  
20 session is an open mic session, and we'll show  
21 the time between now and up 'til lunch. We'd  
22 like to hear from folks. We'll do it rather  
23 informally. Just kind of catch my attention or  
24 my colleague's attention in the back of the  
25 room. We'll bring the mike to you, and we'd

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1  
2 love to hear what your ideas are and ways that  
3 we can improve this. So anybody want to  
4 start? Yes sir, right back there. And could  
5 you tell us who you are just so we know?

6 MR. LES BARKHURST: Yes, it's Les and Tammy  
7 Barkhurst from Saratoga, Wyoming. Thank you for  
8 the opportunity to be here. I appreciate all  
9 the comments I've heard today, the problems that  
10 exist and so on. US beef is the best in the  
11 world, and it's not because we were told that we  
12 have to do it. We do it because we have pride  
13 in our work, and it's a survival issue. We're  
14 here today because we hear all these things that  
15 don't make sense. I'll take me just a minute; I  
16 appreciate your time.

17 Keith had mentioned that this is about the  
18 end product safety for the consumers. That's  
19 why we have the best beef. I also hear that it  
20 will also help in aiding in exports of our  
21 beef. Over the years, I have seen more problems  
22 with imports than with exports. I'm concerned  
23 about where the IDs for the imports are. And  
24 once they're slaughtered, if we do have a  
25 mandatory ID, and that tag of US is gone, we

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1 also have no country of origin labeling. So our  
2 beef is important enough to identify them from  
3 birth until the packer gets a hold of it. And  
4 then we have no identification as to where it  
5 was originated. Because money is the issue  
6 here, I have a hard time believing that this is  
7 about APHIS and diseases. We had packers that  
8 put pressure on the USDA. Vilsack opened up  
9 the borders for Brazilian and Argentina beef,  
10 for fresh beef that have foot and mouth disease  
11 problems. This is the same USDA that's here  
12 today to hear our comments. Within a few months  
13 we lost country of origin labeling, and a record  
14 drop in calf prices. We have to be  
15 sustainable. We have to keep making a living.  
16 My family's been in it since 1887, and  
17 our grandkids wanted to be here today. I am  
18 concerned that this is more about money,  
19 of imports coming in that are cheaper. We all  
20 know the story. I'll get to the point. I would  
21 prefer this animal ID to be labeled what it  
22 really is, rather than coming through under the  
23 table. And it's my opinion and I have lots of  
24 data. 2003 we had a BSE problem in

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1 Canada. The import borders closed. Our market  
2 price went up. It's there; it's there to look  
3 at. Our exports were shut off too, but that did  
4 not affect as much as the imports being shut  
5 off.  
6

7 The sale barn fellows I respect highly. I  
8 appreciate their comments and concerns. We're  
9 all in this together, until we get to  
10 the packers, who used to give us discounts for  
11 having knots on the neck, from a seven-  
12 way vaccine so they discount us. Then they got  
13 abscesses in the meat because the shots were  
14 given intramuscularly. And then they discounted  
15 that.

16 The point I'm trying to get at is this tends  
17 to look like it's about discounts. And we're  
18 concerned about what will happen if there  
19 is discount issues, not necessarily about  
20 tuberculosis or Bangs. You guys know this  
21 better than I do how we've eradicated it in  
22 taking care of it. And it takes a lot of  
23 work. But that's our concern. I don't think  
24 that the packers care that we survive, only to a  
25 floor place where we have a base herd for them

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1  
2 to keep working. I respect you guys listening  
3 to my comments, but that's bluntly how I  
4 feel. Thank you.

5 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, sir. Anyone else  
6 have a comment?

7 MR. HUNT: Thank you, Tracy Hunt  
8 from Newcastle Wyoming. I'm a cow/calf  
9 producer. You know that the cart here is way,  
10 way before the horse. The problem is not a  
11 resistance to the notion of animal disease  
12 traceability. I don't know producers that don't  
13 want to have animal disease traceability. The  
14 problem is trust in the agency that's promoting  
15 it when - - National Animal Identification  
16 System, premises identification is still fresh  
17 in our mind. And it's knowing APHIS will say on  
18 their website now, animal identification is  
19 about knowing when and where that animal is at a  
20 given point in time, and if that isn't full  
21 chain traceability, then I don't understand the  
22 concept.

23 Now, the problem that happened with  
24 the NAIS was that the agency tried to bite off  
25 more than it could chew. It wanted, and this

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1 is almost as serious, they wanted to ear  
2 tag chickens individually, unless you were  
3 Tyson. They wanted to animal ID grandma's goat,  
4 the donkey in the back yard, the horses. They  
5 wanted to animals ID everything.  
6

7 And naturally they met with a wall of  
8 resistance. Now they've come back and are doing  
9 this piecemeal. And it's an issue  
10 of trust. And if they would just tell us where  
11 they ultimately want to end up, we could then  
12 deal with the facts of that proposition. But  
13 that's not what they're doing. Now you don't  
14 have very far to prove what I just  
15 said. Now here's the real issue, vertical  
16 integration. And I don't know if you guys know  
17 all of what happened to the poultry business,  
18 happened to the pork business, but vertical  
19 integration crushed the producers in those  
20 particular industries. And now there is a  
21 movement to crush the beef industry by vertical  
22 integration. Those of you who may be familiar  
23 with the global roundtable for sustainable beef  
24 is a blood compact between Cargill, JVS, Tyson,  
25 McDonald's, Walmart, and who's driving the bus,

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1  
2 remarkably, to me, is the World Wildlife  
3 Fund. Now, what these people have in mind is  
4 full chain traceability, RFID ear tags, premises  
5 registration, reporting movements, and attaching  
6 then what I think are radical environmental and  
7 social conditions to the producer's operation,  
8 all of which then will be required to be  
9 verified by a third party contractor that the  
10 producer has to hire. And the third-party  
11 contractor will come out with a checklist and  
12 verify that each of these conditions are  
13 met. And if that all happens according  
14 to the third-party contractor, then that  
15 animal ear tag, that RFID ear tag, he will be  
16 cleared for marketing. And if it's not cleared  
17 for marketing, that animal is not marketable.

18 Now, Cargill, JVS, Tyson actively lobbied  
19 the USDA, and they are forcing the issue. And  
20 so what happens when they actively market or  
21 lobby the USDA is it would be great to have  
22 animal ID, and I would love to avail myself of  
23 the great technology that's available with  
24 animal ID. We could make better marketing  
25 decisions; we could make better management

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1  
2 decisions. It's a great technology and it's  
3 coming. However nice it is right now it's going  
4 to be five times nicer in five  
5 years. It's going to be better and better and  
6 better.

7       So the question is how do we avail ourselves  
8 of this great technology without sticking our  
9 neck in the noose that's coming from the  
10 packers, from the massive retailers, and the  
11 World Wildlife Fund? Now the World Wildlife  
12 Fund wants to evacuate cattle from the Northern  
13 Great Plains. They'll tell you so on their  
14 website, if you'll look. They want to trade  
15 that out for bison. Now it just so happens that  
16 in this particular proposal  
17 of tracking feeder cattle that the great  
18 Northern Plains, none of those, or all of those  
19 animals will run up against this regulation  
20 because there's no packing plants in  
21 those states. So they're going to necessarily  
22 have to take animal identification case. Once  
23 they take that animal identification, now they  
24 are free to exploit by the packers. And you  
25 take other states where there are packing

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1 plants, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, California, 51%  
2 of the cattle, the feeder cattle, are in states  
3 where they have packing plants. Those are not  
4 going to be affected if it's a prohibition on  
5 interstate movement without the tagging.  
6

7 So who does that benefit? It benefits the  
8 packers. And you're back to you got to ear  
9 tag your chicken unless you're Tyson. So, two  
10 things. One of them is this agency needs to  
11 decide how it is that they're going to allow us  
12 to avail ourselves of this remarkable technology  
13 without sticking our neck in the noose. And  
14 they can tell us that that information is going  
15 to be confidential - -. It's not going to be  
16 confidential. And about marketing to China or  
17 whatever, if you're going to be in the marketing  
18 business, just don't sell me out. And what  
19 you're doing by selling me out, what I mean  
20 is you're going to take, you're crushing the  
21 intermediate price signals that happen in a free  
22 market when you allow collusion at the packer  
23 level up. And so what you end up with is  
24 vertical integration. If the packers can  
25 control all aspects of your production, which is

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1 what they propose, then you will take whatever  
2 price you get, and that they're doing that now  
3 in Australia. They're doing that now in  
4 Ireland, and those producers are begging for  
5 some relief from the retail level - - in Canada  
6 - - big pilot program, not by chance anybody  
7 from Cargill here, is there? Don't everybody  
8 raise their hand same time. You know, go to  
9 YouTube and watch Nicole Johnson Hoffman  
10 from Cargill. And these people are like,  
11 this is Colorado, - - smoke pot here in  
12 Colorado. You know the kids have got their  
13 bong out, and they take bong hits, and then  
14 they take movies of themselves, and they put it  
15 on YouTube. Not that shrewd. Meat packers and  
16 World Wildlife Fund admit what they're doing to  
17 their own groups of people, and they put it on  
18 YouTube. Now if you want to go look up some  
19 information, go look up Dr. Jason Clay from the  
20 World Wildlife Fund. And he will tell you what  
21 we need collusion at every level. Go look up  
22 Nicole Johnson Hoffman from Cargill, and she'll  
23 tell you the same thing. And what she'll say is  
24 we fought this for a long time because it was  
25

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1 the NGOs doing it. But the sustainability  
2 movement, we're leading the way now. We're  
3 going to take up that space. And they have now  
4 got their first checklist. And they have not  
5 made it a prohibition of marketing. They've  
6 just dangled a little carrot. You can get  
7 some carcass data you fill out the  
8 checklist. They intend to accelerate that. So  
9 now tell me USDA, APHIS, how it is that you  
10 are separating yourself from this cartel. Tell  
11 us, USDA and APHIS, how it is you're going to  
12 protect these producers against the vertical  
13 integration. And don't come back with another  
14 proposal on how you're going to force us to  
15 accept animal identification that is only going  
16 to be useful to those people, without telling us  
17 how it is you're going to keep us from  
18 sticking our neck in the noose. And - -  
19 antitrust legislation, whatever happened to  
20 that? Whatever happened to antitrust  
21 enforcement? And that would drop this in  
22 its tracks. You wouldn't have to fight trying  
23 to get me to take an ear tag. I'd do it  
24 voluntarily, if only, if only there were a free-

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1 market protected in the United States at the  
2 intermediate price level.

3  
4 Well the packers have had record profits  
5 over the last few years. This whole thing would  
6 be easy to implement if the packers would pay  
7 for it. And they, they can bid that out there  
8 right now. What's to keep them from doing  
9 it? And you livestock people, the first one to  
10 go in the whole sustainability movement - -  
11 dictionary definition. I just got a report from  
12 a sale barn owner where two buyers, packer - -  
13 Cargill, JVS, they took turns. They bought  
14 every single lot of yearling cattle in that  
15 sale. Now what the hell do they need a sale  
16 barn? So please, please understand that we  
17 appreciate the work, I love veterinarians, I  
18 love that they're scientists. I love that  
19 scientists love data, and I love that the  
20 traceability give them lots and lots of data  
21 points. I love that, and I love that about  
22 them. But what they need to understand  
23 and it's like law enforcement, wouldn't it be  
24 great if law enforcement didn't have to get a  
25 search warrant, and wouldn't it be great if

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1 nobody carried arms because wouldn't that make  
2 their job a lot quicker so it might save them  
3 a couple of days in their whole life. Well, you  
4 know, some things are just not worth the cost to  
5 the society, to the country, and to our  
6 freedoms. And traceability as it stands now is  
7 not worth the cost of crushing the free  
8 market.

9  
10 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Hunt, for your  
11 views. And this is our opportunity for others  
12 to be heard as well. That was  
13 not criticism. That was me opening the floor to  
14 everyone in the room.

15 MS. TAMMY BARKHURST: I'm Tammy  
16 Barkhurst. He drug me along, and I have a very  
17 pointed question to Dr. Hammerschmidt and Dr.  
18 Geyser-Novotny. What are the USDA requirements  
19 today for animal ID and traceability for  
20 Canadian cattle and Mexican cattle pouring over  
21 our borders every second of every day?

22 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: So Bob can maybe help  
23 me a little bit with this, but Mexican cattle  
24 coming in have to be tagged with an official  
25 Mexican tag to the state of origin for imported

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1 cattle, and Canadian cattle coming in  
2 have RFID tags coming in when they are imported  
3 into the US as well. So they all have to  
4 have official ID coming in. Yes, it's part of  
5 our import requirements for them to enter the  
6 country. What'd you say, I'm sorry?  
7

8 MS. BARKHURST: The tags are put in the  
9 country of origin.

10 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Correct.

11 MS. BARKHURST: They're not put in after  
12 they come across a border.

13 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: No, none are put in in  
14 the US.

15 MS. BARKHURST: So are they in your system  
16 when they do that?

17 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: When they're collected  
18 at slaughter, yes.

19 MS. BARKHURST: Thank you.

20 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And on the import  
21 certificates that we receive as well.

22 MR. LARRY SCHNELL: My name is  
23 Larry Schnell. I'm from Dickinson, North  
24 Dakota. Run an auction market up there and also  
25 run some cows. My point would be this. Up

1  
2 until this point, and even when I heard about  
3 the listening sessions, what's the first  
4 question that came into my mind and that is--

5 [END 02\_Track\_01.mp3]

6 [START 03\_Track\_01.mp3]

7 MR. LARRY SCHNELL: ..why, why are we doing  
8 this? We have been through it a number of  
9 times. And I don't think I'm the only one  
10 asking that question. I think a lot of  
11 producers are; we heard it today, that this has  
12 been tried before. Why are we doing it  
13 again? Now you may think you have some great  
14 reasons why it's being done, but I  
15 don't think the producers are convinced are  
16 convinced of that, whatever that reason. If  
17 it's for animal disease traceability, it'd be  
18 interesting to know how many producers really  
19 believe that's the reason for it. We've heard  
20 some comments toward that right now. So one of  
21 my points would be that again, the cart is  
22 already way in front of the horse, as  
23 was said. Let's stop for a minute, and really  
24 if you want this to be done in an easy fashion,  
25 convince the producers that there is value to

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1 them, and that it's clear that that information  
2 will be protected. Not just say it, show how  
3 it's going to be done rather than institute the  
4 program and then let's see how we can work it  
5 out. That hasn't worked very well in almost  
6 anything that's been done that comes from  
7 Washington. It just hasn't worked. Let's have  
8 the plan first of how it's going to be  
9 done. Convince the producers that there is  
10 value to them, 'cause that's really what it's  
11 supposed to be all about, them and the  
12 consumers. But there really, it's got to work  
13 for both ends of that. So that's point number  
14 one is show the producers that there is value;  
15 convince them of that.

17 And if you can do that, one thing you're  
18 going to find out is if there is value in this  
19 program it's going to benefit every segment from  
20 one end to the other, the book ends, all the way  
21 from the producer to the consumer. So the  
22 second point is if there's value in the program  
23 then split the cost. Why should the producer  
24 pay for the whole thing? They always do.  
25 They're always responsible for that entire cost,

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1 and that's the way it's going to be with  
2 this. Of course other than you can say that  
3 well the feeder and the packer are all going to  
4 have the electronics. To them it's a cost of  
5 pennies per head, if that. For a producer. It's  
6 5 to \$10 a head, minimum, and you got to take  
7 into account the fact that in rural America  
8 today it's really hard to find help. A lot of  
9 these people, it's going to cost them a lot just  
10 to put that tag in the ear. I know you might  
11 not believe that, but the average herd size in  
12 the United States of America is 40 head. I  
13 believe I saw that yesterday. That means that  
14 half of those herds are less than 40 head. And  
15 imagine the cost of having to put in the  
16 facilities to be able to run cattle through a  
17 chute that they don't do now?

19 So they're going to have to start from  
20 square one and put a lot of money into  
21 it. So that would be point number two. And  
22 point number three is, as Jim said and others,  
23 keep it simple, start, do baby steps. If  
24 there's agreement that there's value to it, if  
25 we find a way to reimburse or to pay the

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1 producer for doing it, if he sees the value then  
2 do a little at a time. We don't even have to  
3 start with Bang's vaccinated heifers. We're  
4 already talking about, we're already doing the  
5 ID on females. Just take them, and if you're  
6 going to institute at some point if there's  
7 agreement that we should do it, start with just  
8 them and when you got the whole technology  
9 system all based and working as it should, then  
10 you can move onto others. But there's no reason  
11 to jump in with both feet when you really don't  
12 know how it's going to be done. And I say that  
13 from experience, is that our business, this is  
14 our 80th year of business at our auction market  
15 and I've been there for 40 years. And in that  
16 time we have offered ourselves up as a guinea  
17 pig for a lot of the ID systems that have come  
18 about. North Dakota State has been at the  
19 forefront of it.

20  
21 So we've offered our place to do it. So  
22 we've tested probably upwards of a dozen  
23 different types of tags, readers, all the rest  
24 of it. To this point none of them has  
25 worked. They worked on a perfect day. High

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1 frequency is really good if it works on a  
2 perfect day, but once you get manure and mud and  
3 water and cold and all of those things involved,  
4 then everything goes down the pot. So that's my  
5 points. I appreciate you listening to me, thank  
6 you.  
7

8 MS. MILLIS: And who else, thank you,  
9 sir. Who else would like a chance? Right here  
10 sir. Oh, I'm sorry. We got one over there, and  
11 then we'll go to you, sir.

12 DR. NICK SCHNEIDER: My name is Dr. Nick  
13 Schneider. I am a veterinarian here in  
14 Colorado. My family owns a livestock auction,  
15 has for 30 years in southwest Minnesota. I grew  
16 up working at the sale barn. We also raised  
17 replacement heifers, and I have some cattle and  
18 Colorado, so I really hit every spectrum of  
19 being involved in this particular  
20 topic. Weighing in on RFIDs, I work primarily  
21 with dairy cattle, about 30,000 dairy cattle or  
22 so. And RFID have been probably one of the  
23 biggest tools that have revolutionized the  
24 way that we're able to analyze data on dairy  
25 farms, and we think okay, it's dairy, it's a

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1 whole different animal.

2  
3 A lot of the major feed lots in Canada are  
4 100% RFID-based on the way they sort, the way  
5 they do everything. And they've actually been  
6 able to replace a lot of labor as well as get an  
7 extraordinary amount of data they're using and  
8 then relaying that actually to the cattlemen  
9 themselves. Now I'm going to jump to the other  
10 side of the spectrum and look at it from a  
11 livestock auction standpoint. And so great,  
12 let's say we throw it in and everybody has to  
13 do whatever. Not saying we should do that,  
14 but how do we level the playing field for  
15 everyone? The online auctions, which I work  
16 some calf ranches and sell a lot on online,  
17 nobody knows they exist. Nobody knows where  
18 those cattle are coming from or going outside of  
19 we do write health papers and things like  
20 that. But who is sitting there policing them  
21 versus the state officials policing and sitting  
22 in my dad's livestock auction every Tuesday,  
23 having a technician there, whatever they're  
24 called that's there every single week? Well,  
25 there needs to be accountability for everybody

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1                   ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY MEETING                   126  
2           because if the playing field is not level,  
3           then what's the point?

4           MS. MILLIS:   Thank you, sir.   And we'll go  
5           over to you.

6           MR. GERALD SCHREIBER:   Gerald  
7           Schreiber, cow/calf producer from Last  
8           Chance, Colorado.   I have appreciated the  
9           comments to date.   I had one question for Dr.  
10          Roehr and for USDA, APHIS.   From a property  
11          rights issue I found out I have a premise  
12          ID number.   I never signed up for a premise ID,  
13          and I checked with my local brand inspectors,  
14          and I checked with my local veterinarian.   We  
15          market cattle both through the auction and  
16          through Superior.   And nobody, I didn't ever  
17          sign up for premise ID.   I guess specifically to  
18          Dr. Roehr and maybe USDA, that's the first  
19          question.

20          DR. ROEHR:   I can speak from Colorado.   I  
21          can't speak for other states.   If you if you  
22          either export or import livestock into our  
23          state, we'll make sure that the location is a  
24          valid location for our records.   And we make  
25          sure it's compliant and it's called a LID.   It's

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1 a location ID that Colorado has. It's very  
2 different than the USDA PIN. The PIN, the  
3 USDA number you would need if you were  
4 interested in ordering A40 tags or visual or  
5 electronic official IDs to use in your  
6 livestock. And that goes into an AIN  
7 database, and all it says is that it's a valid  
8 number. There's no data behind it, unless an  
9 animal that's tagged that goes back to that  
10 number is of interest in a disease  
11 investigation. But in the state of Colorado,  
12 you really, if you ship livestock or if you have  
13 a brand inspection, you have a location  
14 ID. It's one that we issue; it's compliant as  
15 far as the same information with the USDA  
16 tag. So I guess in reality you don't have to  
17 ask for it, but if you participate, and we just  
18 make sure that we keep them in a consistent  
19 manner.  
20

21 MR. SCHREIBER: So one year I did do the  
22 third party. Are you saying that could have  
23 originated going through IMI Global to get the  
24 premise ID, because of those tags?

25 DR. ROEHR: No, probably not. They may use

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1 your tags as a method to verify source or  
2 different verification programs, but, and I know  
3 for a while they were using 900 series  
4 tags. If they use A40 tags and they sell those  
5 to you, they are the tag purchaser. And if it  
6 was an animal of interest, then whoever would go  
7 to IMI Global and say we've got this tag, can  
8 you tell us the producer, and John and  
9 Leann have worked with us in the past, but it's  
10 been a very, very low number of times when we've  
11 needed information, but they keep good  
12 records. So in the end, we're not issuing  
13 premises just for the sake of issuing ID  
14 numbers. On a state level if you move  
15 livestock, that's important to us, and we want  
16 to keep the data in a manner  
17 that's meaningful. If you want to order tags,  
18 that goes into the AIN, which is, essentially  
19 it's an anonymous system. If you want to order  
20 tags and you give a PIN, all the  
21 tag distributor sees is it's a valid  
22 number. There's no data behind it. You could  
23 ship those to a very different address; they  
24 don't care. It just says that the information

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1 is within their data base in the event that they  
2 need to trace back. Neil, did I...

4 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: No I think was very good  
5 Keith, thanks. Just to follow up a little bit  
6 and I think it's one of the solutions or  
7 alternatives that we work through with you all  
8 when we had these discussions back in 2010 and  
9 2011, when there was considerable concern about  
10 premises ID, so the term that Keith used,  
11 location ID, it's a location number. But that's  
12 managed entirely at the state level. So  
13 states that wanted to make options available  
14 where they didn't use the federal PIN, the  
15 location ID, the LID is basically a state-  
16 administered entirely location identifier which  
17 certainly is the option of the state if they so  
18 desire to use that instead of PINs.

19 MR. SCHREIBER: Okay, I'm still a little  
20 fuzzy on how I got a premise ID, but moving  
21 on, we try to do everything on our place using  
22 the best BQA and using protocols, and the best  
23 health and safety. So I don't have any problems  
24 from a traceability standpoint. I'm not  
25 paranoid, but this globalistic idea that has

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1 surfaced here today and the multinationals, we  
2 deal with. I think this is what bothers us about  
3 this program. I'm a sovereign US citizen, and  
4 I'm not a globalist, and I don't like this idea  
5 of liability coming back on the United  
6 States producer when we can't even label our own  
7 product. Thank you.

9 DR. ROEHR: So one other comment to  
10 clarify, previously in Colorado, if you had a  
11 brand inspection, the brand inspectors knew your  
12 location. They keep that information. We work  
13 collaboratively with brands all the time with  
14 our veterinarians and other people. The only  
15 difference is we didn't wake up one day say  
16 gee, everybody needs a LID. We just said we're  
17 keeping data that needs to be in a uniform  
18 manner. We had the information before. Really  
19 nothing's changed. So in tune 99.9% of the  
20 information we keep never sees the light of day  
21 unless there's an animal of interest,  
22 an unhealthy one. And I'll guarantee you it's  
23 secure. If it's ours. I don't, important  
24 point, if USDA requests information from us just  
25 because, we don't give them anything. If it's a

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1 specific animal of interest, yes, we work  
2 together to control the disease. But that  
3 is the only situation that that data is reviewed  
4 or shared. So in Colorado, your data's secure;  
5 there's no question.  
6

7 MR. THOR ROSETH: Yes, I'm Thor Roseth. I'm  
8 from South Dakota; I own and operate  
9 two livestock auctions. And one of the main  
10 questions that I bring with me from some of the  
11 people I do business with, is we all have this  
12 understanding that there's maybe some different  
13 phases of this ADT rule. And I'd like to know  
14 where we're at. I mean obviously the first was  
15 intact animals 18 months and older, dairy  
16 cattle, on and on. It was in the  
17 presentation. Are there rules in place  
18 in phase two and three of this rule? And where  
19 are we at with the implementation of those rules  
20 that would expand into individual ID of feeder  
21 cattle and actually all animals as a whole?

22 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: So there are no rules  
23 for phase two, if that's the appropriate way of  
24 putting it. Early on when we had this  
25 discussion in the initial framework, there

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1 was obviously a lot of discussions about the  
2 feeder cattle. And we agreed to a separate rule  
3 making. This is not to come to these meetings  
4 and say this is the rule. It's really to have  
5 input from you all, what are the things that are  
6 working well? What needs to be fixed? There's  
7 been I think a lot of speculation if you will,  
8 that we're ready, USDA might be proposing feeder  
9 cattle. We're not. I think they need to be  
10 considered in the cards at some point time down  
11 the road. But as we've tried to point out  
12 earlier, there's bigger issues to fix  
13 first. And that's why we want to have some  
14 discussions more specifically about some of  
15 those items. You all tell us how, when,  
16 if feeder cattle need to be part of the  
17 equation, and we'll take that back to the  
18 drawing board and act accordingly. What we're  
19 hearing so far across most of the meetings to  
20 date is we're definitely not ready now. There  
21 has been some discussions that maybe it should  
22 be considered further down the road, and if you  
23 do, so let's have a timeline established to  
24 transition into that type of plan. But I can

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1  
2 honestly say that we came here with no proposed  
3 rule on inclusion of feeder cattle into  
4 the ADT framework. We sincerely want to have  
5 those discussions with you all on your thoughts  
6 and opinions at this point in time.

7 MR. ROSETH: Very good. So if you do move  
8 forward and would make rules, we'd go through  
9 this whole process, have listening  
10 sessions. We'd have feedback. It would be a  
11 totally new and separate process, correct?

12 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Definitely.

13 MR. ROSETH: Very good.

14 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: We're wanting to look  
15 at the current framework and take feeder  
16 cattle off the equation. I think there's some  
17 gaps in traceability today that with some  
18 tweaks, I mentioned earlier we tried to  
19 establish a bookend system. And today we have a  
20 part of a bookend system because we're not  
21 really at that first end and we'd like to get  
22 to, so we want to have discussions on how can we  
23 maybe fix that little part of it to give us  
24 better traceability to that true bookend, as an  
25 example.

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1                   MR. ROSETH: Very good, thank you for that  
2  
3 clarification.

4                   MS. MILLIS: Thank you, and we have one  
5 comment over here, and then we'll go over to  
6 you, sir.

7                   MR. SHANE KACZOR: I'm Shane Kaczor. I'm  
8 one of the owners of  
9 Bassett Livestock Auction. I'm also a rancher  
10 there. With talking to producers in my part of  
11 the world, they're not convinced that there's  
12 any value in this for them. They're worried  
13 that the packer will use this, the number of  
14 cattle out there against them again, and they  
15 want to know why is the USDA worried so much  
16 about this when they don't even care what  
17 country our beef comes from, by kicking out - -  
18 . From the sales side of it, I want to know who  
19 is going to pay for, what your thoughts, who's  
20 going to pay for this. And also looking  
21 forward, if you were to do this with feeder  
22 cattle, who is going to enforce this in the  
23 country, the country deals that are  
24 done? What's your thoughts on that?

25                   DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: If we had all the

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1 answers we be upfront telling them to you. Cost  
2 has always been an issue. There certainly has  
3 to be opportunities or ideas considered to  
4 spread the cost. I think we realized the need  
5 for that. The federal government obviously  
6 doesn't have a big budget to cover all of those  
7 costs and I'm not sure we can honestly say that  
8 we will in the future. I think that it be  
9 misleading to do that. So we have  
10 an ADT framework today that is working at a  
11 certain level. I think we have a better system  
12 than we did ten years ago. Keith, how  
13 much would it cost to tweak some of the things  
14 that we're talking about? So we already covered  
15 some animals that need tags when they  
16 move interstate. What would be the additional  
17 cost to put those tags at a little bit earlier  
18 time in their lifetime? Might save us some  
19 money, handling cattle at an earlier age if we  
20 tag them, so I think there's opportunities that  
21 we can consider that don't have a big cost to  
22 them. Just again, focus on the current  
23 framework that we have in place since 2013, and  
24 identify some alternatives that maybe producers  
25

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1 would consider. The dairy example, I know  
2 there's not very many dairy folks here today but  
3 there are some. We covered all dairy. And we  
4 thought early on the dairy producers would take  
5 calves at their dairy, before they sold the  
6 bull calves. We're not getting back to that  
7 bookend dairy. We're getting back to where the  
8 calf was tagged. And that might be two or three  
9 points later in its life. So we  
10 had got traceability gaps. But wouldn't it be  
11 more economical, I'm asking you, to tag that  
12 bull calf when it's will being loaded on the  
13 truck, on a weekly pickup, for example. So I  
14 think there's discussions to be had that improve  
15 traceability, maintaining the current framework  
16 that we have. And if we call it phase two or  
17 whatever, phase three, I think we want to have  
18 some of those discussions as well.

19  
20 The understanding that if it's two years  
21 or five years down the road and feeder cattle  
22 are transitioned in, what do we need to do  
23 between now and then. And you guys have helped  
24 us identify some issues on compliance that need  
25 to be more uniformly put in place and things

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1                   like that. But again what I'd be looking at  
2                   some of the breakout groups this afternoon, we  
3                   want to improve compliance, even the playing  
4                   field across the marketplace. Give us some  
5                   ideas on how to do that. I don't think we're  
6                   going to hire an army of people to go out and do  
7                   it. There might be some options that we can  
8                   plug in that allow us to self-police the  
9                   compliance issues themselves if we have those  
10                  types of discussions. So I hope I'm helping  
11                  respond to some of your concerns and questions  
12                  but if, not I'll try again.

14                MS. MILLIS: Could you tell us who you  
15                are?

16                MR. KENNY ROGERS: Kenny Rogers, I'm  
17                from Yuma, Colorado, cow/calf producer. I think  
18                one of the things I wanted to mention, bring up,  
19                we're kind of getting in my opinion,  
20                we're getting off track here on some different  
21                topics, and we need to get back to, I've had the  
22                opportunity to go on trade missions to Mexico  
23                and Canada. I've had visitors to our ranch from  
24                Australia and New Zealand, South America,  
25                Mexico, and Europe. And usually as we get into

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1 our discussions we'll talk about the industry, -  
2 - happenings, whatnot. And without a doubt,  
3 everyone has said we cannot believe that you  
4 don't have a disease surveillance and tracking  
5 program in your country. And I said it just  
6 hasn't come about yet. A few years ago I went  
7 to a seminar at CSU at Fort Collins. It was a  
8 foreign cause animal disease outbreaks seminar,  
9 and we listened to some people from Africa there  
10 speak about what they had gone through by not  
11 having a system to trace and the severe  
12 repercussions of that. So what I would strongly  
13 urge this group to do, let's get back to the  
14 things that are important here. There are  
15 people out there, nefarious individuals who do  
16 not like us, who would love nothing better than  
17 to torpedo our economy. And by one of the means  
18 that they had discussed at some of this is  
19 somebody could very easily come into this  
20 country and bring a disease and infect a herd, a  
21 feed lot, a dairy, whatever and then just let it  
22 go at that. We need some way to track and trace  
23 the animals. And to see that we can isolate it  
24 and prevent severe economic harm coming to us  
25

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1 because of that. So as I said, I think what we  
2 need to do is to get back to the world realities  
3 right now of how the world outside our borders  
4 thinks, not the way we think within our own  
5 borders, and what the severe outcomes could be  
6 if we cannot trace with 100% reliability  
7 a single individual animal. So it comes down to  
8 diseases and traceability, and I'd like to see  
9 us work towards that.  
10

11 MS. MILLIS: Thank you so much, sir. I'm  
12 going to draw this session to a close. There  
13 are other opportunities to make comments yet  
14 today. We'll be working in small groups when we  
15 come back. Yes Neil, did you have a  
16 question? Were 11:30 right now, so we thought  
17 we would break for lunch, and then...

18 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: There's other  
19 comments. I'd certainly make time for some. I  
20 think we're in the middle of some good  
21 discussions.

22 MS. MILLIS: Okay, all right.

23 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: So unless there's an  
24 urgent need to break for lunch, I think maybe  
25 there's some additional comments and questions.

MS. MILLIS: Okay?

DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: If there's not, that's great, but I don't want to cut anybody off.

MS. MILLIS: We've got one back here. We'll get to you in a second, sir.

MR. MEYER: I'm Cork Meyer. I've been making comments for myself, but now I'm going to make them for the independent cattlemen in Wyoming. Our entire membership opposes any national animal ID. And that's all I've got to say, but we do, and I told him I would tell you.

MS. MILLIS: Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

MR. HUNT: Tracy Hunt again from Newcastle, Wyoming. Dr. Hammerschmidt, I was watching a YouTube video, and I think what I heard you say was that a LIDS is a state premises identification. A PIN is a federal premises identification, but there is an algorithm on the computers that your agency installed in all of the participating member, tribes, and states that converts that, and I think your expression was behind the scenes, that it converts a LIDS to a PIN so that

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1 they're basically interchangeable  
2 commodities. Am I wrong about that?

3  
4 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: No, I'm sorry you  
5 misunderstood. I wasn't clear, so I  
6 apologize. So a LID is totally administered at  
7 the state level. There is a  
8 standard. Keith, your LIDS are eight characters  
9 ? Yeah, so we did say if a state is going to  
10 use a LIDS, use it in a standard format so that  
11 there is commonality. But all that information  
12 pertaining to that LID is kept at the local  
13 level. A PIN is still administered at the state  
14 level in most cases, unless there is a disease  
15 outbreak, and we're on locations that are  
16 involved in that trace back that need a location  
17 identifier, our system automatically works  
18 through the process to get a PIN so in that case  
19 it's administered by our federal folks working  
20 that investigation on those premises. But a  
21 PIN, even though it is a quote, referred to as a  
22 federal PIN, it's federal because it calls the  
23 algorithm, the premises allocator is what we  
24 call it, to release the next available  
25 number. The state still supplies the

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1 information on their local systems on the  
2 address, the name of the producer, and that type  
3 of information is maintained locally by the  
4 state. The only information that we keep on a  
5 premises ID is the address. And we do that  
6 specifically to avoid, the system that generates  
7 the premises to not issue a second, third,  
8 fourth premises ID to the same address. So if  
9 you tried to get a PIN for a location that  
10 already had one, the system would tell the state  
11 that we already have a premises ID assigned to  
12 that address, here it is again.

14 MR. HUNT: I guess just a clarification that  
15 I'd like is that if you had, if a person had  
16 a LID, but not a PIN, a person that was using  
17 the PIN system could easily identify through an  
18 algorithm that address with using a LID. Is  
19 that true?

20 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Ourselves?

21 MR. HUNT: Whoever else is using your data.

22 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: So who's got, I'm  
23 still not following your question.

24 MR. HUNT: And perhaps I did just totally  
25 misunderstand you. But it sounded to me like

1 the LID was generated by the state, correct?

2 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Entirely, yes. State  
3 level.  
4

5 MR. HUNT: And kept by the state, but that  
6 that computer worked reasonably seamlessly with  
7 the federal computer so that the PIN and  
8 the LIDS were basically interchangeable  
9 commodities.

10 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: No.

11 MR. HUNT: And what's wrong with what I just  
12 said?

13 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: We don't have  
14 an interface with Keith's system that  
15 generates LIDS.

16 MR. HUNT: Do you have a federal computer in  
17 that in the state? Did you install a federal  
18 computer in Colorado?

19 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Not to the best of my  
20 knowledge.

21 MR. HUNT: Maybe I'll show you the video,  
22 and you can clear that up for me.

23 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Okay, be glad to see it,  
24 sure.

25 MR. HUNT: Okay, thank you.

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1  
2 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, sir. Anyone  
3 else? Yes, back here.

4 MALE VOICE 7: Hi again, I guess kind of a  
5 little bit different subject though, but what  
6 I've noticed too with the ADT rule is that  
7 different states have different  
8 requirements. I'm kind of wondering, at some  
9 point do we try to normalize everything and say  
10 okay, across the board, if you're going to go to  
11 Nebraska or you're going to go to Texas, 18  
12 months or older, this is the rule. This is what  
13 this is what you'll need, I guess it's always  
14 up, it's left to the states, and I understand  
15 that. But it gets difficult where if you've  
16 got different rules of 50 different rules to  
17 import cattle into their state, it gets really  
18 difficult for a veterinarian, especially  
19 livestock veterinarians, to at a livestock  
20 market say okay this is what we need to do, so  
21 that mostly cattle could be, so that we can have  
22 commerce and move, because at the current state  
23 you're not able to do that. You just have  
24 sell cattle, figure out where they're going,  
25 and then figure out what your requirements are.

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1 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: I appreciate the  
2 comments. When we had again the discussions on  
3 the initial framework, we really heard a lot of  
4 emphasis placed on flexibility, and maybe we  
5 over shot some of the flexibility. So again if  
6 there's things that we need to standardize in  
7 the next update or iteration, let's identify  
8 those and see what we can get the states to  
9 buy into. And Keith, maybe you have comments as  
10 well. But I think part of the, to take that  
11 further, 'cause we've heard it just about at  
12 every meeting, a need for more standardization  
13 for the movement of cattle across state lines,  
14 let's be more specific today if we can, and  
15 identify three, four things that really are the  
16 greatest problem. I say that because I think  
17 part of it is related to ID requirements. I  
18 know recording the ID number on dairy steers is  
19 different from one state to another. Why that  
20 is, I'm not really sure, but that's an issue  
21 that I think we need to take forward in our  
22 discussions. There might be animal health  
23 requirements that are specific to a state that  
24 I'm not sure we're going to standardize some of

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1 those requirements nearly as easily. And I'm  
2 not sure ADT caused any of those  
3 variabilities. But we might have caused some  
4 of ID requirements to be more variable than they  
5 were in the past because we allowed for that  
6 flexibility. We wanted that flexibility early  
7 on, and now I hear it's a little bit confusing  
8 and problematic. So maybe that's an opportunity  
9 to correct?  
10

11 MR. SCOTT STUART: I'm Scott Stuart with the  
12 National Institute for Animal Agriculture and  
13 also National Livestock Producers Association,  
14 two organizations that have been involved in  
15 this discussion for many, many years. And  
16 to your question Doc, very, very good question  
17 on knowing what all the regulations  
18 are. The two organizations, NIAA and US Animal  
19 Health Association a couple of years ago had  
20 these discussions and - - we need a tool be able  
21 to put in your hands so you know what those  
22 regulations are. And so there's a website that  
23 was developed over the last 18 months. It's  
24 in place now, real-  
25 time, InterstateLivestock.com. You put in the

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1 class of livestock, the state it's coming from,  
2 the state it's going to. It tells you exactly  
3 what those requirements are. So it's something  
4 that hopefully is one of the solutions to an  
5 issue you brought up.

6  
7 MS. MILLIS: And then I think we had  
8 another comment over here. No, yes? We'll go  
9 over here, and then we'll come back here.

10 MALE VOICE 8: Neil, I'm kind of ignorant on  
11 government works. But if after you've heard all  
12 the comments, you're going to get written  
13 comments later on, when you go back and try and  
14 compile all them, there a chance you could have  
15 representatives from the different segments of  
16 the industry, the markets, producers, the  
17 cattlemen's associations, whatever they may be,  
18 sit down with you, before you post them and say,  
19 yeah, good, no, you're still not getting how  
20 things work in the real world with  
21 this one? And maybe do that now; I have no  
22 clue. But if you don't why don't you, and would  
23 you?

24 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: And I don't  
25 know our plan is close enough to what you're

1 commenting on. I certainly support the concept  
2 of continuing that collaborative effort that we  
3 established in ADT from the very beginning. So  
4 what we're doing with all of these meetings is  
5 compiling that information, and based on what  
6 we're hearing the feedback on, we'd have a  
7 proposed list of, I don't want to say action  
8 items but maybe recommendations to consider for  
9 the next release of ADT, if you will. And have  
10 another discussion on what you just said, is  
11 here's what we heard, this is what we think we  
12 heard, and hopefully by that time after  
13 listening to your feedback and input, we have  
14 some possible solutions. And we would want to  
15 share those solutions with all the stakeholders  
16 across the industry sectors before even  
17 considering anything beyond that. So I'm  
18 thinking, we're doing what we plan to do what  
19 you ask for. I'll let you speak. We're  
20 compiling this information; we want to bring it  
21 back to you all. But instead of just listening  
22 to the problems, hopefully you're telling us  
23 along the way, what are some possible solutions,  
24 but share those, what we hear from across the  
25

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1 country. I mean if we can adjust one part of  
2 the current framework to plug this gap, here is  
3 a solution for that gap, we want to have that  
4 re-discussed with the industry stakeholders that  
5 you - - that support it as a solution, because  
6 we don't want to go down a road, and have a  
7 proposed rule that isn't well-supported by  
8 you all.

10 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, we're going to here,  
11 back there, and over here.

12 FEMALE VOICE: Well I would just like to say  
13 that I understand all the problems the  
14 veterinarians and the sale barns are facing, and  
15 I see that you have a concern for their problem  
16 with what's going on now. You do call your  
17 meetings, for the advancement of disease  
18 traceability. And it seems to me that you say  
19 you don't have anything in mind, that you're not  
20 talking about feeder cattle yet. But what your  
21 main goal is, is to advance traceability. And  
22 it looks like you're responding to everybody's  
23 needs, other than the producers, that are  
24 concerned about their private property rights,  
25 their freedom to market their animals without

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1 vertical integration, and the problems that go  
2 along with your traceability efforts. And I  
3 think that will have to be, I mean I think you  
4 should address that as well, because we're the  
5 ones on the bottom line that will be losing our  
6 freedoms to exactly what Tracy talked  
7 about. And I think you're aware of all this. I  
8 think these people have lobbied you. And I  
9 think you understand that situation, but I'd  
10 like to know what you might do to address those  
11 issues as well as just advancing, I mean it  
12 seems to me like all the discussion  
13 is toward advancement, advancement,  
14 advancement. And now that you full well know  
15 what that could do to our private property  
16 rights and to our ability to market our cattle,  
17 if we don't if we don't provide information  
18 to the top or the bottom of the supply chain on  
19 environmental, social issues, I think you're  
20 aware of that situation, and I'd like to at  
21 least hear you admit that you understand the  
22 problem or have some way to address that in a  
23 manner that helps producers as well as, 'cause  
24 without the producers those sale barns, they

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1 don't need their businesses. And it's going  
2 more and more to individual contracts  
3 and two or three buyers on yearling cattle. And  
4 I think, this guy back here said that we're  
5 getting away from the topic, but it's all  
6 related. I mean disease traceability is one  
7 thing; marketing other countries as another  
8 thing. And but if we can't market within our  
9 own country because we haven't succumbed to  
10 environmental and social pressures from the  
11 top three packers, then our market isn't going  
12 to be there anyway. So I don't care if you're  
13 selling to effort to Africa, China, Korea,  
14 whoever. We aren't going to have a market  
15 to enter anyway unless we succumb to those  
16 environmental and social pressures.

18 DR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: I'd like to say I have  
19 an answer to all of those issues, and certainly  
20 some of them I think maybe I don't fully  
21 understand. Maybe we don't fully understand, so  
22 I think we all appreciate the comments that you  
23 had in those regards. And there might be some  
24 issues that we need to dig into a little bit  
25 further, so I appreciate your concerns. We

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1 don't want to overlook any, thank you.

3 MR. BOB MEYER: My name is Bob Meyer. I'm  
4 assistant state veterinarian with the  
5 Wyoming Livestock Board in Cheyenne,  
6 Wyoming. My comments are basically from me and  
7 really don't necessarily reflect the feelings of  
8 the Wyoming livestock board. But I've been in  
9 the animal disease epidemiology - - tracing  
10 business for over 40 some years, brucellosis  
11 and things. Neil had asked us specifically to  
12 help us identify gaps of the current  
13 program. And what I'd like to speak very  
14 specifically is three gaps that I see that exist  
15 in the current program today. The first gap  
16 relates to going back to the packers. So I'm  
17 going to whack on the packers just a little  
18 bit. This year we've had cases of TB still  
19 found in Mexican feeder cattle at  
20 slaughter. And today's technology, USDA has  
21 been able to look at the tags collected from  
22 those steers, most of them having  
23 Mexican ear tags, and compare the tissue taken  
24 off that tag, to the actual lesion of TB that  
25 was sent in. And we all want to think that, if

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1 this system was working perfectly in the  
2 bookend, by this time, it ought to all  
3 match. Well lo and behold two out of five cases  
4 have not matched this year. And we'll just go  
5 back further. For those of us who have been  
6 involved in brucellosis, for years we had traces  
7 for blood sample that would come back from a  
8 packing house. We'd have to trace  
9 it. We'd trace it to the ID that they gave  
10 us at slaughter, go back to herd - - find no  
11 disease. So I would, obviously we weren't in  
12 the right herd. So this issue of getting, even  
13 though it says in all the rules and regulations  
14 you're supposed to correlate the ID to the  
15 proper carcass until the, this is  
16 meat inspection function and a function, a  
17 responsibility of the packing house itself, it's  
18 still we've got problems that exist. So what I  
19 would suggest, a gap and we are addressing  
20 it, it's being addressed some, but we need to be  
21 aggressively filling that gap. Why as  
22 producers. I can see here, I'm not a producer  
23 but I can see their frustration very well why  
24 ask them to put producer tags in to trace  
25

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1 the herd of origin when on the final  
2 bookend, it's going back to the wrong  
3 producer?  
4

5 So the gap, the bookend is improve the  
6 bookend process. And the packer has to  
7 do it. Meat inspection is, - - have the  
8 responsibility to work with that packer, but  
9 still, and many packers do today. I've seen for  
10 years, you could go back from a certain plant,  
11 and you could bet your money you're in the  
12 right herd. Other plants, they give you an ID,  
13 and you say this is a crapshoot-type of  
14 thing. So first thing I think there really  
15 needs to fill the gap is improve that process of  
16 getting correlation of the right ID that is  
17 collected to the proper carcass.

18 Second - - thing was already mentioned I  
19 think a little bit and hinted to is  
20 Holstein steers. Holstein steers now going  
21 interstate are already in the rule. They're  
22 supposed to be ID'd. But are they being ID? I  
23 think Neil already hinted there's pretty good  
24 evidence that we've still got a lot of movement  
25 of Holstein steers between states, some going

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1 there. There's no ID on them. Animal disease  
2 traceability is defined disease. A year and a  
3 half ago we had a case on the kill floor of a  
4 Holstein steer out of an Arizona plant. It came  
5 out of a feed lot, a lot of cattle. No ID  
6 collected. A lot of cattle came  
7 from a California feed yard, which was put  
8 together by eighty plus 80 calf raisers that  
9 could have represented 80-plus dairies. Did we  
10 find a home for that? No, there's another  
11 there's another Holstein herd somewhere. But if  
12 it's for disease traceability, we need to shore  
13 up the regs right now that we already have in  
14 place. And I think that's been mentioned. The  
15 second the third thing that I want to say is I  
16 think we need to re-examine for slaughter cattle  
17 leaving markets, what is the official ID? We  
18 had just recently in Wyoming, we were involved  
19 in the South Dakota trace also in which we were  
20 tracing 86 known exposed animals that went to a  
21 major heifer producer/developer. He took those  
22 86 animals, and they were all, had 46  
23 vaccination tags in their ears when they came  
24 in. Mixed them with a

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1  
2 thousand other heifers, rebranded them with his  
3 brand which is normal. Okay, so now we start  
4 our tracing on it. We were able to find all  
5 that all of them except for 14. And basically  
6 probably most of those went for slaughter. But  
7 we can't verify for sure, because right now they  
8 probably went with a back tag, but there was no  
9 back take correlated to that 46. Are they dead  
10 or still out there? Probably dead, probably  
11 in slaughter channels.

12 But can we exact verification? And I know  
13 that gets back to the discussion there. But my  
14 point is, is there a gap, on slaughter cattle,  
15 is back tag good enough? We all know they lose  
16 them. I think that's a gap that needs to be  
17 reexamined, and whether we need to have  
18 somewhere along the line, that back tag on  
19 slaughter cattle correlated to official ID. And  
20 those are the three comments that I think are  
21 gaps that need to be filled before we at  
22 all blast forward with further identification  
23 of additional animals, thank you.

24 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Thanks, Bob. And I  
25 just wanted to make some comments related to the

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1 issues that we face for collection and  
2 correlation of ID at slaughter. And as you  
3 know, we are taking action. It's become more of  
4 an issue. It's always been an issue but it's  
5 become more of an issue I think of late, so we  
6 formed a working group last November to try to  
7 identify what the issues are exactly, where the  
8 system fails. And is it a plan issue, is at a  
9 personnel issue? What exactly is it. And  
10 so we've delineated a couple different measures  
11 that we're looking at, a couple of them being  
12 simple training, training the  
13 personnel. There's a huge amount of turnover in  
14 these plants.

16 Also with - - personnel, so making sure they  
17 understand what the requirements are and how to  
18 do that properly. Outreach for when there is a  
19 mismatch, so if it does occur, figuring out  
20 exactly where the system failed and making sure  
21 you take steps to ensure that it doesn't happen  
22 in the future. We currently do tissue matching,  
23 genetic matching on everything that is  
24 histocompatible for TB, so it means it looks  
25 like TB, versus just all the submissions that

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1  
2 come in. We've now started a random sampling  
3 program for all submissions, so they collect  
4 every fifth and tenth sample. That was just  
5 instituted last week; you don't even know about  
6 it yet. And so we're spot-checking them. So  
7 we'll be able to hold their feet to the fire a  
8 little bit better and see where we're having  
9 issues better than we have in the past. So I  
10 think that we've got some really significant  
11 improvements that we can initiate here in the  
12 next couple of months to make improvement.

13 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, back over  
14 here. Thank you for your patience.

15 MS. KATIE AMBROSE: My name is Katie  
16 Ambrose, and I just want to follow up on a  
17 comment that Neil made, and Sunny had in a slide  
18 in her presentation this morning. I believe, is  
19 it a total of ten listening sessions by the time  
20 it's all said and done, where all this  
21 information is being gathered and collected from  
22 all the conversations. Neil had mentioned that  
23 this is all going to be pulled together and  
24 presented during a national forum that is taking  
25 place on September 26th and 27th right here in

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1  
2 Denver. It will be at this sister property that  
3 literally is just up the road. So I think that  
4 will provide a great opportunity to hear what  
5 all of the sessions have gathered and collected  
6 and put back out in front of all of you for  
7 further discussion.

8 MS. MILLIS: Thank you. Is there anyone that  
9 hasn't had an opportunity that would like to  
10 share something? Yes, sir.

11 MR. CAMERON MULRONY: Cameron Mulrony, I  
12 work for the Idaho Cattle Association. And the  
13 two questions that I have, or comments, it seems  
14 that we need to make sure this is a secure  
15 system. For instance in my  
16 lifetime I've experienced three people that had  
17 horses quarantined for Coggins that was a false  
18 positive on every one of those animals. If that  
19 would have got out in any system that could have  
20 been detrimental to the business. And that was  
21 from a false positive. But in today's day and  
22 age, everybody's an expert with  
23 the Internet. And those computers can all talk  
24 to each other. So security is a big issue with  
25 this system, as in any system, and also the

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1  
2 liability of that. If we got a bookend, is all  
3 the liability going back to the producer that  
4 put that first tag in? If Jack in the Box was  
5 to have E.coli again, would somebody want to  
6 trace that back to the producer that raised that  
7 calf? Those are the two things that I see as  
8 gaps in the system that would need to be  
9 addressed. Where does that liability  
10 fall? Where does a false positive, in the  
11 media, how does that affect a state? When there  
12 was BSC in the state of Washington, I grew up  
13 there. That's what they said, is it was in the  
14 state of Washington. And you can correct me if  
15 I'm wrong, but I believe that animal did not  
16 originate in Washington and not even in this  
17 country, but that part of it was kind of  
18 overshadowed by the initial outlet of  
19 information. So that liability and that  
20 security are two huge issues in this, when  
21 you're looking at our market and our industry.

22  
23 MR. CAMPBELL: John Campbell with Winter  
24 Livestock. I have just a little follow-up on  
25 your comment. That is one thing that that tag

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1 will bring that animal back to you just like a  
2 brand is. You have no control over what has  
3 happened to that animal in the interim between  
4 when you sold him as a 400-lb. calf, and he was  
5 killed at 1,250 lbs. Right here is we sit now,  
6 the packers are mandating to each and every one  
7 of you producers that you sign an affidavit that  
8 said you have not violated and how they can get  
9 away with that is beyond me, but I can tell you  
10 this. If you don't sign one, and the market guy  
11 is doing his job, I got to red flag you, and say  
12 Mr. Packer, I don't have an affidavit on hand  
13 for that gentleman right there. And they will  
14 sit there and cross their arms. And if the  
15 market doesn't prop your cattle up, they go for  
16 nothing, 'cause they will not buy them. If you  
17 have a signed affidavit, that's fine. You need  
18 to keep record of that. If I cannot get this  
19 man's affidavit because he unloaded the cattle  
20 at 10:30 and I sold him and 11:00, after the  
21 fact didn't do me any good.

22  
23 So now they mandate the auction to say  
24 you're responsible and you will gather all of  
25 those affidavits or the liability goes back to

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1 you. And I don't mean to get off course here,  
2 but that's what's happening in the  
3 industry. And to back up a little bit what my  
4 cohort Jim said, you need, it is paramount to  
5 get information like this into you guys' hands  
6 so you can make a constructive decision if this  
7 is the way we're going to go. I cannot  
8 emphasize enough speed of commerce.  
9 You're affecting truck drivers, you're affecting  
10 veterinarians, because  
11 they're sitting there. And their job has just  
12 quadrupled because they're running, at my  
13 facility it's an every week deal. We're running  
14 hundreds of cows back through the chute after  
15 the fact to get a clip number. And the animal  
16 is going to the feed lot and then to  
17 slaughter. The only traceability you got  
18 is back to Winter Livestock that that  
19 animal was one of 500 that was sold on whatever  
20 day, November the 5th, end of story. You can't  
21 trace it back to Bill Hammerich 'cause it was  
22 done after the fact, because you have made the  
23 decision and legislated that I better have that  
24 tag number on that health to get that and we'll

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1 do a feed lot in Texas. And so we're breaking  
2 the whole deal down so we can get these so we  
3 can get these tag numbers. And you have no  
4 traceability 'cause you just bring them back to  
5 where I worked for 400 people on the course of  
6 that day.

7  
8 Could be any one of 400 because the  
9 cattle were commingled after the fact, and I  
10 understand that's a state issue. And just to  
11 tell you a little bit about how these things can  
12 impact business, I used to have a horse sale,  
13 and I am not blaming the good doctor. He was  
14 very understanding and very good working with  
15 us, but I don't have a horse sale anymore  
16 because I cannot comply with the Coggins  
17 regulations that surround my horse auction. The  
18 word is out. Don't send the cattle from, or the  
19 horses from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, which  
20 I'm in the southeast corner. You shut all those  
21 down because I can't write you a brand  
22 inspection' cause you don't have  
23 a Coggins test.

24 Takes three days to get a Coggins  
25 test. Then if they're going to slaughter and

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1 going to be dead in 24 hours, you still have to  
2 have a Coggins test 'cause they're going out of  
3 state to the only slaughter facility. And that  
4 office is on a Friday, and it's after 5 :00, so  
5 it's Monday until you can get the results back  
6 from the Coggins, and who pays the feed bill,  
7 and I got a hold up your proceed check because I  
8 don't know if your horse is Coggins positive or  
9 not. And it costs 100 bucks, and your horse was  
10 only worth 40. So you say hell, don't take him  
11 La Junta. - - he'll tie your money up. You got  
12 to pay a three-day feed bill plus a Coggins  
13 test. And my point is speed of commerce and you  
14 have identified it, but there's no way you know  
15 about speed of Commerce. You don't know what  
16 goes on at my house no more than I know what  
17 goes on at your house. But please, please talk  
18 to these veterinarians, these truckers, these  
19 producers like you're doing here. How does that  
20 impact you? And have them  
21 directly involved when you're handing down the  
22 script about this is how it's going to come  
23 down, because they know a lot more about it than  
24 you people do.  
25

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1  
2 MS. MILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Sunny  
3 was going to comment, I think.

4 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: I just wanted to make  
5 some quick comments about things to consider  
6 maybe for this afternoon and related to where  
7 animals are tagged. And when you consider where  
8 we are able to trace back to with the current  
9 system and that it might trace back to the  
10 individual who isn't responsible for whatever it  
11 might be, one of the things that comes to mind  
12 to recently are residues. So trace back from  
13 slaughter related to residues, that's going to  
14 get you back to that the prior person, but maybe  
15 not back to the person who violated the system  
16 to begin with. The other thing is there  
17 was comments earlier about movement  
18 documentations and not requiring them to be read  
19 I think at markets ore reading tags at markets  
20 and that sort of thing. We call that a  
21 citing. So if we do a TB test or a  
22 brucellosis test or we have a movement  
23 document, that is a citing of that animal. And  
24 all of that between that when that tag was put  
25 in and all those sightings along the way, help

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1  
2 us get back to the right individuals to find  
3 where the liability is if there is an issue and  
4 not hold people accountable for something that  
5 they weren't responsible for. So those all tie  
6 in together to get us back to the right  
7 individuals.

8 MS. MILLIS: Anyone else? Okay. So what  
9 we're going to do following lunch, is we're  
10 going to come back and work in some small  
11 breakout groups. And before we go I'd just kind  
12 of like to count off to four, we'll  
13 have four different groups. And when we come  
14 back, let me get my notes here, about what rooms  
15 we'll be in. So the group one is going to meet  
16 with Dr. Sunny. Group two is going to meet  
17 with Don Beckett back here. Group three  
18 will meet with Dr. Roehr or in the back of the  
19 room there, and group four with Dr. Alex  
20 Turner. He's standing up back there. So when  
21 you get back, we'll let you know which rooms  
22 we've got set up for those. But let's just  
23 go. If we could maybe start down here we'll  
24 just number off. Now if you are one of the note  
25 takers or the kind of chairperson in that room,

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1 just kind of pass when we get to those  
2 numbers. So I think you would start, I think  
3 so. Let's go back here. I think you're three  
4 then. Four, and in the back row we're skipping  
5 you. Okay, those are all passes along the wall,  
6 okay. Pass, pass. I think you're free then.  
7 Okay, in the back of the room? There will not  
8 be a test on this. Let's come up here. You can  
9 start at one. We'll go down to the end. Three  
10 and four. Four, you're a four. One, are you a  
11 pass? Okay. So you would be a two? I think  
12 you're a two. And a three and a four. Okay.

14 [END 03\_Track\_01.mp3]

15 [START 04\_Track\_01.mp3]

16 S1: MS. MILLIS: Welcome back. So I'll  
17 invite you all to take your seats, and we can  
18 hear what the groups that you were not in put  
19 together. Hey, welcome back. Welcome back,  
20 everyone. We're about to start up again. I'm  
21 trying to learn how to whistle. But anyway, I  
22 want to first of all, I want to thank everyone  
23 that participated in each of the groups, and I  
24 want to thank the folks who led the groups and  
25 the folks who took the notes during that

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1  
2 time. And this is our opportunity as people  
3 come to order, to hear back what the various  
4 groups heard in their discussions. So let's go  
5 by the numbers here. Who's going to report out  
6 for group one? All right, I'm going to give you  
7 this microphone. I'm glad you came up  
8 here Larry because everybody came to attention.

9 MR. SCHNELL: Well, yeah. Right. In our  
10 group, in group number one, I've got to give you  
11 a disclaimer, first of all. Our question was  
12 is, if ADT is implemented, where do you  
13 start? Where is the point where the cattle  
14 would need to be first identified? And the  
15 disclaimer is that we did not discuss whether it  
16 should be, whether ADT should be  
17 implemented. We didn't talk about anything  
18 other than that, other than the idea of if it  
19 was implemented, where does it need to  
20 start? And those who are members of our group,  
21 be sure and correct me if I say anything wrong  
22 as we go through this, if you would please  
23  
24 So what we talked about again it's to what is  
25 the purpose of ADT for disease

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1 traceability. So really where is the best place  
2 to start? I think after some conversation, one  
3 of the places could be the first point of  
4 comingling, might be at an auction  
5 market. It might be in a pasture where you  
6 have, different people have cattle in one  
7 pasture. But wherever that first place is, that  
8 those cattle would be comingled would be they  
9 would need to have that RFID in place. Another  
10 idea would be, it could be change of  
11 ownership. If this isn't workable  
12 maybe it's change of ownership rather than even  
13 if you comingle cattle in the pasture, but  
14 they're not changing orders, maybe when you do  
15 sell them, to somebody else that before they get  
16 on the other man's truck, that they got to be  
17 identified. But the one that really carries,  
18 looks like the right way to do it if you're  
19 going to do it, is that they're basically  
20 tagged, at their birth wherever they were born,  
21 whatever ranch or farm they were born on, that's  
22 where they would be first tagged. That's really  
23 the only place where you're going to be able  
24 to identify the place of origin. All of these

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1 would assume, of course that no matter where  
2 they're tagged, that the information as to who  
3 the original owner was has to be part of that  
4 information. Am I saying it correctly? One of  
5 the other things we talked about was if it  
6 is implemented, who's going pay for it? As was  
7 mentioned this morning, if ADT has value,  
8 it's got to have value for more than just one of  
9 the segments of the industry. And so who is  
10 going to pay for it, and how do you do  
11 that? That's something we didn't talk  
12 about. How we did that, we said that that's  
13 something that needs to be taken into account,  
14 because too many times the producer is the only  
15 one that ever pays, and most of the time they're  
16 the one that gets the least benefit from it. So  
17 something to consider as we go forward. If this  
18 is not workable and in some areas of the  
19 country, most likely it wouldn't be because some  
20 of these ranchers or farmers would not have the  
21 ability to tag them, you always have to have  
22 approved tagging sites that might  
23 work. It might be weighing station; it might be  
24 an auction market. It might be some

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1 entrepreneur that just would put up place where  
2 that could be done. Veterinarians is another  
3 place we talked about. So there needs to be  
4 places that they can get that done if they can't  
5 do that at home. And that's one segment of what  
6 we talked about, so I open up any questions  
7 about what we talked about. Did anybody have  
8 any questions about that? Or you think that  
9 makes sense or not or whatever?  
10

11 Okay, there will be plenty time for  
12 discussion, I guess later. So I'll go, quickly  
13 move into the other thing we talked  
14 about 'cause we finished up on here was the  
15 question about back tags. Should RFID be should  
16 be used in place of back tags? And there always  
17 needs to be one. And what we came up with was  
18 the idea that the only time that the back  
19 tag for cattle are going directly to slaughter,  
20 the only time that should be exchanged for an  
21 RFID is if the information of the seller, the  
22 original sellers and is included in that. Now  
23 what we mean by that is if you if we  
24 do RFID, and you're not reading it on a regular  
25 basis as it's changing hands, you don't know who

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1 the original owner was. So the back tag does  
2 tell you that, that at least you can go back and  
3 trace it back as it is right now. So that's an  
4 important thing. We need to keep that until  
5 we've got a much better system. We should stay  
6 with a back tag. Am I saying that  
7 correctly? Right. Right.

9 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: We talked about  
10 removing the exemption of allowing back tag  
11 for direct-to-slaughter, and what if we just  
12 substituted in official ID for those  
13 animals? And the point that we came to is  
14 that we could only do that if RFID was used. It  
15 couldn't be a noose tag because if it was a  
16 noose tag, we would lose  
17 the consignor information. So if RFID was  
18 utilized and could be read, that could be  
19 married in with the market software, and then  
20 you would have  
21 the consignor information. But we wouldn't be  
22 able to achieve that with just noose tags.

23 MR. SCHNELL: Yeah, we really need to make  
24 sure that before we do away with them with  
25 the back tag that you got something that can

1  
2 replace that'll do as good or better job. And  
3 then finally again we had jumped onto another  
4 subject, and that was just the idea that if RFID  
5 or if ADT is implemented, it should be done and  
6 perfected with what the regulations are now with  
7 the intact females and Holstein steers. And it  
8 should be 100% or nearly 100% effective  
9 and at the speed of commerce before you move any  
10 further than that. 'Cause that's the least  
11 number of cattle you have to deal with, and  
12 they're also the ones the easiest and everybody,  
13 you know the rules already there, that they have  
14 to be individually ID'd already. So if you're  
15 going to implement RFID, that's the place to  
16 start and don't even talk about any other types  
17 of cattle than that until you get this  
18 perfected. Everything, any questions? I'm  
19 done, thank you.

20 MS. MILLIS: Thank you. Group number two  
21 come up, please.

22 MALE VOICE 8: All right, so our questions  
23 were built into movement documents that exist  
24 now and how do we deal with it. So the first  
25 question was what sort of information should be

1 on there or what is currently on there. And we  
2 looked at owner premises, basically addresses of  
3 where cattle are going to and who the new owner  
4 is. Number of head, sex, and ID. That maybe a  
5 brand or an individual ID in that system. And  
6 then we looked at types of movement documents  
7 and part of them or CVIs, OSS or brand  
8 papers, and that depends on what state will  
9 accept a bill of lading. So back tags, we just  
10 talked about. They're only eligible  
11 for three days, and direct to slaughter. And so  
12 then one of the other things that came up was we  
13 called program cattle movement, so like breed  
14 associations Angus horse tags, things like that,  
15 because you have a range of tag numbers that go  
16 to an individual producer that would allow some  
17 extra data along with those cattle  
18 being moved. And then in each case, you look at  
19 the increase in reliability and speed of  
20 traceability, making it very electronic so that  
21 way we take out the legibility issues, and it's  
22 more reliable to pass through everything. So  
23 the next question was when  
24 should cattle and bison move on an ICVI? And

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1 basically the consensus within the group was  
2 interstate movement. And then what events and  
3 activities would require a CVI without being  
4 moved across interstate and stock show  
5 exhibition or rodeo, because you're bringing  
6 lots of individuals together, comingling without  
7 comingling, I guess and then dispersing  
8 again. So being able to track these animals  
9 that do this is probably very important,  
10 and we've see that here in the state of Colorado  
11 every now and again, too. When can cattle move  
12 without an ICVI was the next question,  
13 interstate, so internally. Commuter permits, a  
14 lot of our a lot of our landowners that  
15 border New Mexico, Wyoming, places like that  
16 have a commuter permit that is agreed upon  
17 between the two state vets that are in the  
18 association. So you can go back and  
19 forth across state line with having somebody  
20 look at them all the time. Direct to slaughter,  
21 and then the other thing as we've all seen here  
22 probably this past winter is emergency  
23 movements. When you think about wildfires, and  
24 things like that do you want to wait for a  
25

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1 vet to show up to write you a piece of paper to  
2 move? Not it's not exactly a good point to see  
3 the vet. The next question on our list was a  
4 ship to ship to destination with a change. So  
5 cattle loaded on a truck are supposed to go  
6 here, but somewhere in the middle somebody  
7 calls the trucker and says they're supposed to  
8 go here. How do we deal with the change in  
9 CVIs? Our group decided that it was a little  
10 complex and more in-depth than what we can  
11 handle today so we punted. Yeah, yeah. So the  
12 next question was how do we increase value  
13 of owner certifications and brand papers. And  
14 so I think the consensus a little bit of the  
15 group was a little bit was make this system  
16 electronic so it's easy to transfer  
17 information. That is going to be an uphill  
18 battle, I think especially within the state of  
19 Colorado, just to get the brand inspectors on  
20 board with that because that is a totally  
21 separate job. So the next question was how can  
22 electronic ICVIs benefit the industry? They're  
23 searchable. I think every vet school has a  
24 beginning class that says how can I write really  
25

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1 fast and make it not legible, right? And so  
2 legibility is a big thing. Speed, because once  
3 we enter into these types of situations where  
4 the veterinary professionals need to track down  
5 a disease, speed is important, and it's  
6 important to us whenever we are one of the ones  
7 being quarantined right? And then we still need  
8 more education on everything that goes into the  
9 system as we make everything electronic. Let's  
10 make sure that everything is electronic is  
11 firewalled, because there are data geeks out  
12 there that are much smarter than us that can  
13 hack into it. Let's make sure that we're  
14 firewalled into this. So that was our, I think  
15 that's the end of my slideshow. It is.

17 MS. MILLIS: And any questions?

18 MALE VOICE 8: Going once, going twice, go.

19 MS. MILLIS: Thank you. Thanks for  
20 that. We'll hear from group three now.

21 MS. SILVIA CHRISTEN: All right. I don't  
22 think our flip chart made it in here. Oh here  
23 it is; wait a second. I don't know there was  
24 anything useful on here. I think I'm just going  
25 to talk about it. Group three was a little bit

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1 hard to organize. We tried. This one  
2 is useful. I'll hold this up in a minute.

3  
4 So group three, our assignment was overall  
5 traceability goals, objectives and  
6 obstacles. So I'm Sylvia Christen by the way  
7 from South Dakota. So we went through a number  
8 of questions. Should we maintain the bookend  
9 system or consider other approaches to  
10 traceability? We spent a little bit of time  
11 talking about exactly what a bookend approach  
12 is, because if you're talking about--delightful,  
13 this is excellent. We talked a little bit about  
14 what a bookend approach is because if you're  
15 talking about chapters in an animal's life, if  
16 you're ID'ing them from chapter six until the  
17 end or from chapter one until the end or from  
18 wherever, your bookend approach is really  
19 whatever you define the bookend to be. And so  
20 that term really was a little difficult to  
21 define, if we should keep the current book end  
22 approach. So we agreed though that we like the  
23 concept of current health certificates with the  
24 list of number of animals, the interstate  
25 commerce system or the interstate commerce event

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1  
2 being the trigger seems to be working for folks,  
3 and that kind of thing. Then we talked about  
4 levels of traceability and what level of  
5 traceability is acceptable. And there too we  
6 had a little bit of a hard time defining  
7 that, 'cause if you talk about percent of  
8 traceability that you want to achieve, that  
9 really kind of precludes what levels  
10 you're tracing. For example, if you want 100%  
11 traceability, that kind of assumes that you're  
12 tracing from birth to slaughter. But if you're  
13 talking, so we weren't quite sure exactly what  
14 comfort level everybody had with that. I think  
15 generally we didn't feel that everybody was  
16 ready for birth to slaughter. We weren't quite  
17 at that point.

18 So the one thing--hang on. Let me double  
19 check my notes here. So we did talk about this  
20 Venn diagram here that Dr. Roehr made for  
21 us. And the concept that the goal of  
22 traceability really is to keep our industry safe  
23 and healthy, and protect our industry and  
24 nowhere disease is. So we kind of talked about  
25 this concept that a disease traceability program

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1 really needs to address program diseases,  
2 address your foreign animal disease, and your  
3 emergency or emerging diseases, and then also  
4 this this hazard emergency movement  
5 piece. And animal disease traceability should  
6 kind of probably encompass all of that, or r  
7 that was Dr. Roehr's explanation of what's  
8 happening here in Colorado. I think we agreed  
9 that the animal disease traceability program,  
10 our current system really needs to be, the  
11 number one priority needs to be to deal with  
12 program diseases. The disease, we know what  
13 they are, and we know what we're tracing, and we  
14 have programs in place like for TB,  
15 and brucellosis. That needs to be our number  
16 one priority for any program. The second  
17 priority would be for animal diseases and  
18 emerging diseases. That's definitely secondary  
19 but it is still very important. And there's a  
20 lot of concern about what other things USDA  
21 is doing that possibly expose us to foreign  
22 disease risks. So that was a discussion that we  
23 had around kind of what traceability should  
24 be. So our number one priority for it though

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1 would be to continue addressing program diseases  
2 that we know what we're doing in the layers of  
3 that ADT piece. Will help us with the rest of  
4 it. Let me go back. We were kind of hard to  
5 organize, so my notes are a little all over the  
6 place. Thank you, Tracy.

8 So what level of traceability is needed to  
9 support international trade opportunities,  
10 and how can the United States meet future  
11 international traceability demands? What should  
12 the focus or objective of ADT be in regards to  
13 international marketing opportunities? We kind  
14 of talked there about the fact that disease  
15 management of imports is certainly really  
16 important. But in our group there was a lot of  
17 discussion about what imports, international  
18 imports are exposing us. We have a lot of  
19 foreign trading partners who might have an  
20 ADT program in place, but they have a lot of  
21 disease problems, whereas we have a relatively  
22 healthy herd and haven't, don't have the full  
23 traceability. So there was some question  
24 there. But the other piece that that came up a  
25 couple of times too is that we don't need ADT to

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1  
2 be a marketing program. ADT needs to be a  
3 disease traceability program. If somebody needs  
4 to market their animals, using these  
5 electronic IDs and stuff might be a part of  
6 that. But really the core of what USDA needs to  
7 do is an animal disease traceability  
8 program. Marketability and marketing programs  
9 and performance programs doesn't need to be a  
10 part of that conversation.

11 So then the next big discussion that we  
12 had, trying to make sure--oh, our long-term and  
13 short-term goals of ADT, the long-term ideal  
14 would be make sure we're protecting the  
15 industry. The folks from APHIS they were in the  
16 room said really, that's their number one goal  
17 as well as to make sure we're protecting the  
18 industry and that the best way to do that would  
19 be full traceability. But we also need to  
20 balance that with what producers want. There  
21 were some, a lot of conversation about really we  
22 need to know where disease is in our country,  
23 who's affected by it, what your neighbors are  
24 dealing with so that we can track it. We need  
25 to make sure long-term state protecting the

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1 information, that that information is right, is  
2 protected and that we're increasing the security  
3 that we have for diseases entering the country  
4 as well. Short-term goals is to probably not  
5 change the current level of regulation on the  
6 ADT program, working really hard to increase  
7 compliance with FSIS but also amongst our  
8 producers for tagging and how we're doing  
9 it. We need to do some risk-benefit  
10 analysis. And that conversation, John made the  
11 statement that we really need to be careful that  
12 we're not putting this much extra burden on  
13 people in order to gain this much extra  
14 protection. We need to really kind of have a  
15 risk-benefit analysis of what we're doing  
16 is really truly worth the effort. And then the  
17 obstacles that were identified, with all of that  
18 though was the cost. There's the cost of the ID  
19 tag, but there's also a lot of other costs that  
20 goes along with this to both producers and to  
21 processors. I mean the whole cost is much more  
22 than just the tag. That's something that is an  
23 obstacle to full expanded traceability. The  
24 speed of commerce is something we have to make  
25

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1  
2 sure we're keeping track, are aware of as we're  
3 implementing things. And then the data security  
4 and that seems to be a theme that comes up  
5 through a lot of the groups that have spoken so  
6 far, data security and the concern that that  
7 data could be misused or misplaced or used in  
8 for unintended consequences, that could be used  
9 by folks for reasons that might not be the  
10 initial intent. So that was our long-term and  
11 short-term goals for an overall traceability  
12 program.

13 And then the last question we had is if  
14 RFID is to be considered for a future solution,  
15 how could the US cattle and bison  
16 industry move towards a fully integrated system  
17 and just some questions about  
18 RFID technology. We had a lot of discussion  
19 that RFID technology has a lot of potential, and  
20 there is value for producers who have chosen to  
21 use it and who use it for, maybe for ADT  
22 compliance, but a lot of people are using it for  
23 marketing purposes or for just their herd  
24 management purposes, and that there's a lot of  
25 potential there. It can be a really good

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1 thing. Technology though doesn't seem to be  
2 quite where we need it to be to be able to keep  
3 up with speed of commerce. And so there's a lot  
4 of concern about that, that we're maybe a little  
5 bit ahead of ourselves and trying to  
6 use RFID across the board. There really was not  
7 very much consensus on actual usability for a  
8 system that needed to be reliable through all  
9 chains of production versus a producer who is  
10 choosing to use it in whatever stage of  
11 production he's in. And then again the concern  
12 about data security and how RFID tags are able  
13 to keep the data secure and not let it be  
14 misused. So group of three, did we have anybody  
15 else? I told you guys to let me know if I  
16 missed anything but did I do okay? Thank you.

17  
18 MS. MILLIS: Thank you so much. And then  
19 finally, let's hear from group four.

20 MR. ALEX TURNER: So group four, we were  
21 tasked with discussing official identification  
22 of beef feeder cattle, not necessarily as an  
23 immediate implementation of phase two or next  
24 phase, if you will, but rather discuss some  
25 questions on beef feeder cattle in terms of, as

1 they were presented here and what our thoughts  
2 were on that. So the main question was how  
3 should we handle the official identification of  
4 this sector in the next phase of ADT, and I  
5 think the overwhelming answer to that generic  
6 question is we didn't feel like there should be  
7 a part of the next phase of ADT. Or if it  
8 is, that the next phase of ADT is not  
9 necessarily something that's going to happen  
10 in a timeframe five years from now or ten years  
11 from now. It's just not realistic. So we  
12 started off just kind of going around the circle  
13 and get to know everybody, and I asked that  
14 first question should beef feeder cattle be  
15 officially identified in the future? And I  
16 think our answers range from a couple of hard  
17 nos to a couple of yes question marks. We had a  
18 yes and no and no question mark, so really it  
19 was a little bit all over the place.

21 Some of the nos said well whether they  
22 should be identified or not, they thought that  
23 eventually they would be identified. So kind of  
24 get into the semantics of should versus  
25 word. But that was how the group felt. Talking

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1 about no, but we want to make sure that some of  
2 our important feeders maintain identity,  
3 especially our important neighbors from the  
4 South, but also our Canadian neighbors to the  
5 north. And yet eventually, but it needed  
6 uniformity. So it needed to not necessarily be  
7 all over the place in time in terms of which tag  
8 was the official tag. No until the security  
9 could exist, so data security I heard from that  
10 last group, and certainly that was something we  
11 talked about in ours.  
12

13 And the question mark is kind of no,  
14 like what would the program benefits be of  
15 having the beef feeders be identified? A yes  
16 and no event was pointed out that in case of a  
17 disease event, then yes maybe beef cattle, beef  
18 feeder should be identified. But no, because if  
19 it's not streamlined, it's not going keep up  
20 with the speed of commerce. So I know  
21 heard that with some of the other groups, and I  
22 think that was a recurring motive in ours as  
23 well. So the next question is a lot easier, and  
24 we didn't have to go through all the samples  
25 'cause I think it was a pretty good

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1  
2 consensus. Are there areas of ADT that are a  
3 higher priority to address before being  
4 concerned about the ID of beef breeders, and I  
5 would imagine the consensus would be across the  
6 room, like it was in our group, it was a  
7 unanimous yes. There are areas and aspects  
8 of ADT currently that need to be addressed.

9 The next question was are there aspects  
10 of ADT that need to be addressed that will make  
11 the identification of beef feeder cattle more  
12 doable or practical? And this one kind of, we  
13 split it up. Basically we were saying what are  
14 some of the things that we want to have the  
15 current ADT framework do before we even  
16 consider beef feeder cattle to be the next  
17 phase? And what are those goals? Could those  
18 be reached? So we need a system that has to  
19 maintain flexibility, but it still has to have  
20 some uniformity and that's obviously a challenge  
21 because you want it to be uniform, but you want  
22 to maintain the flexibility state to state. So  
23 the other thing was that was discussed was  
24 before, basically in framing it as such of when  
25 do we attack beef feeders as the next challenge,

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1  
2 how about when the slaughter industry can  
3 correlate an ID reliably back to a carcass in  
4 most of those instances? Because our  
5 group didn't feel like necessarily that it would  
6 be worth getting IDs on all beef  
7 feeder cattle until that could happen. And also  
8 figuring out how to spread the costs across the  
9 industry and not just have the cost fall on the  
10 producers or just have the cost for the markets  
11 or just have the last fall on any one aspect of  
12 the industry, have spread out across the  
13 industry.

14 So the next question, what are the most  
15 significant challenges of official  
16 ID requirements in including beef feeder  
17 cattle? And again, this is one of those that  
18 there was a pretty good consensus in terms of  
19 keeping up with the speed of commerce. That's  
20 underlined. And basically even if  
21 the, ID physically was - - beef feeder cattle as  
22 it is in some of them right now today, the  
23 bottleneck of ID collection and where does  
24 that ID collection happen was a concern. What  
25 issues of concern exist today by not including

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1 this sector of the industry and official  
2 requirement? We took that to mean where do we  
3 see problems with not having beef feeder cattle  
4 officially ID'd. And the answer we came up with  
5 was in disease outbreak situations, without ID  
6 trying to track down those cattle through a feed  
7 lot, if they didn't have official ID, or if they  
8 have any idea at all. We did kind of discuss a  
9 lot of feed lots have an ear tag in cattle. And  
10 the ear tag is not an official ID, but they have  
11 a system in place to track those cattle back to  
12 the owner who they're feeding for. So they're  
13 not completely without traceability but they  
14 don't necessarily have official ID in some of  
15 these instances. And a lot of them do have  
16 official ID already. So the last part of the  
17 question was kind of interesting too. So if,  
18 and that's a big if, official identification of  
19 beef cattle feeder cattle is incorporated in  
20 ADT, what is a realistic and practical target  
21 date for making this transition? I would say  
22 that we didn't come up with a good answer on  
23 that one because I don't think there is a good  
24 answer on that one. And just taking a show of  
25

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1 hands in our group whether it was five years, no  
2 takers. Ten year, maybe a taker, but the  
3 reality is most of our group felt like not  
4 having a solid date on a calendar in time but  
5 actually having a set of parameters, having some  
6 goals to meet in the current ADT framework  
7 before we moved onto considering ID in  
8 beef feeder cattle. So hopefully that  
9 represented what we discussed in the group and  
10 stuff. If anybody else had anything to add,  
11 please speak now. I don't think you have to  
12 forever hold your peace. But I'm sure you'll get  
13 to speak later too. Thank you.

15 MS. MILLIS: And again thanks to all the  
16 groups that worked so hard on coming up with  
17 those points. So I wanted to turn the floor  
18 over for a few closing remarks from Dr.  
19 Aaron Scott.

20 DR. SCOTT: Thank you, Debbie. I thought  
21 she was giving me this to take home with me, but  
22 I guess that's not the case. And thank you all  
23 for coming. It's been an interesting day and a  
24 lot of good information to take back, and really  
25 glad to visit with those of you that I got to

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1 talk to individually and glad to be able to hear  
2 what went on in the group/. I think we've had  
3 some good conversations.  
4

5 A few things that I would like to leave you  
6 with as we all head home, besides drive  
7 or travel safely for sure. Number one, I want  
8 to reiterate again in APHIS, USDA we are not  
9 writing a rule right now. There's nobody in an  
10 office anywhere that's sitting down behind your  
11 back writing down regulations. We are here to  
12 hear what you have to say. This process as it  
13 goes forward, this is the fifth meeting that we  
14 have visited with different sectors of the  
15 cattle industry. We have five more to go. We  
16 will listen to everyone and visit with everybody  
17 that we possibly can. There's a forum that NIAA  
18 and USHA are putting on in September. Hope to  
19 see some of you there. We will at that time be  
20 able to compile what we've heard from different  
21 folks in different places. There are already  
22 some of the common themes that are that are  
23 coming up from what we're hearing. If there's  
24 any kind of regulatory changes that are needed,  
25 those would go forward as a partnership. It's

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1  
2 not going to be government-driven; it's going to  
3 be industry and partnership with our state  
4 partners and with you all as well. So those are  
5 some things to take home with you. I don't have  
6 anything other than to say other than thank you  
7 all, and it's been a long and intense day, and I  
8 think some good stuff. So thank you much, and  
9 be safe on the way home.

10 [END 04\_Track\_01.mp3]

11

12

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Anne Edelman certify that the foregoing transcript of 01\_Track\_01.mp3, 02\_Track\_01.mp3, 03\_Track\_01.mp3, and 04\_Track\_01.mp3 was prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature

Date May 28, 2017**Ubiquis**61 Broadway – Suite 1400 – New York, NY 10006  
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