Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Ohio

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

KRISTY SHAW, DVM

ACTING STATE VETERINARIAN
THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
8995 EAST MAIN STREET, REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068
614-728-6220

Submitted to:

JAMIE DAVIS, DVM
AREA VETERINARIAN FOR OHIO
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

12927 STONECREEK DRIVE, PICKERINGTON, OH 43147
614-856-4735

May 23, 2025

Table of Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

This ADT roadmap outlines our intended enhancement of our traceability infrastructure for the 2025-2028 timeline:

- Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator: dedicate oversight to Ohio's ADT program for its enhancement and advancement through the bullet points below
- Radio frequency identification (RFID) Tag Promotion: comply with Ohio's updated exhibition rules (requiring all cattle and swine to have official ear tags that are both electronically and visually readable as of January 1, 2027); target industry groups – producers, county fairs, livestock markets
- RFID Reader Promotion: provide RFID readers to Ohio's accredited veterinarians and livestock markets
- Data System Upgrade: improve efficiency of entering and retrieving ADT data
- National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) Grant Application/Award: focus solely on ADT - fund ADT coordinator salary, purchase of additional RFID readers and associated technology, and develop a livestock market and exhibition analysis to determine traceability infrastructure needs

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Division of Animal Health and the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services Ohio office (VS-Ohio) are the primary constituents

tasked with implementing animal disease traceability in the State of Ohio. We often work in conjunction with several external entities to ensure that traceability is achieved. Some of the external constituents include: other divisions within ODA (i.e., Meat Inspection and Dairy), USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service, county 4-H extension offices, livestock markets/auctions, and state industry/commodity organizations (i.e., Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Ohio Pork Council). The groups listed above will work in a collaborative manner to ensure that livestock moving into and out of the state of Ohio will be compliant with Animal Disease Traceability requirements. ODA is fortunate that we have our ADDL (Animal Disease and Diagnostic Lab) on campus with our other divisions including Animal Health. This allows for easy access to personnel and the lab itself. A new laboratory is currently in the process of being built which will increase the capacity and capability of our current ADDL.

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

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

2.2 Where are we now?

Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) is defined as the ability to track animal movements using records and identification. Traceability is measured by the accuracy, specificity, and speed in being able to determine movements of diseased, exposed or at-risk animals to minimize the number of producers included in a disease investigation. Metrics and parameters that help us measure progress include standards set forth by disease programs like brucellosis, scrapie, CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) and tuberculosis, Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) requirements, Ohio livestock dealer licensing program and Ohio import regulations. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Division of Animal Health is continually looking to improve the way we capture ADT pertinent information into an accessible electronic format.

Coordination in Ohio is based on our working relationship with our area APHIS Veterinary Services staff. Joint communication and coordination occur routinely between Ohio's Assistant State Veterinarian, Animal Identification

Coordinator (AIC) and federal Epidemiologist to monitor policies and activities of both state and federal field staff. The State Veterinarian and Area Veterinarian in Charge provide valuable oversight in all disease trace-back or trace-forward investigations. Monitoring of auction markets, exhibitions, and dealer activities occurs seamlessly between our state and federal personnel. Ohio's 88 counties are divided amongst both state and federal employees with the majority of work (regardless of being state or federal run programs) being performed by the Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) and Animal Health Technician (AHT) assigned to that county.

Presently we perform regular monitoring of livestock movements through marketing channels, market/dealer record audits, Scrapie snapshots, tuberculosis (TB) traces, and rendering and slaughter plant inspections to assess compliance with the ADT regulations. We check to ensure records and official identification are present to allow traceability in the event of a disease concern or situation. Priority is placed for personnel to be at regular market sale days and other points of commingling to monitor for compliance while also educating market personnel and livestock dealers in recognizing when official ID and movement documentation are required.

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

ODA's IT structure consists of multiple databases, electronic spreadsheets, and utilization of software programs- primarily USAHerds and Emergency Management Response System (EMRS). Ohio is in the process of changing databases from USAHerds to AgEnterprise, expected to take place in the calendar year 2025. ODA Animal Health staff have been working with Acclaim as well as the ODA's IT division to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and the documents as they move between databases. Since 2015, data from Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs), TB test records, and Brucellosis test records and vaccination certificates has been entered into the USAHerds database. Individual official IDs along with scans or uploads of the electronic certificates, statements and test records are recorded in USAHerds. This searchable database can locate an animal entered into the system and generate numerous reports that are beneficial when tracing animal movements. A separate Access database is used to capture TB testing response rates by accredited veterinarians.

Distribution of health certificates and distribution of official identification tags to accredited veterinarians, approved tagging sites, and producers are recorded in Excel spreadsheets. The state uses the national premises allocator (through USA Herds) to assign state premises identification numbers to everyone who requests to receive official ID tags. Accredited veterinarians report further distribution of official ID tags to the state office within 7 days of the transfer using a new electronic form for improved efficiency. Challenges we face getting these distributed tags entered into Animal Identification Management System (AIMS) include internal issues with AIMS and not being able to enter 840 tags from accredited veterinarians that transferred tags to producers. Currently we are

uploading the transfer 840 tags to a spreadsheet so that we can upload them once the issues have been resolved. Hopefully the planned update to AIMS will reduce these error messages. All new veterinarian accounts being created in the warehouse system are being submitted with assigned premises ID to enable AIMS entry.

Federal funding directly impacts how Ohio can advance its animal disease traceability activities. Additional funding and resources would significantly aid Ohio's ability to move our ADT program forward. As discussed in section V in more detail, securing an ODA ADT coordinator position would provide a resource to unify and advance Ohio's ADT program efforts. Currently all of ODA Animal Health staff's job duties involve ADT in one form or another. Having a dedicated individual for ADT will help harness and identify that best path forward for improving ADT through Ohio across the different commodities and sectors. Secondly, we have made progress with promoting and distributing RFID tags but would like to continue this momentum. Additional funding and resources to aid in integrating RFID tags and technology into other animal industry sectors such as county fairs would engage Ohio's future producers with RFID technology. We are exploring additional funding opportunities such as NADPRP grants.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- Animal agriculture contributes $109 billion to State's economy
- Regulations
  - Ohio Livestock Dealer Law (ORC 943) allows enhanced traceability efforts through required licensing, audits, and inspections
  - Updated Ohio Exhibition Rules with requirements for official ID with electronic capabilities for all swine and cattle exhibited in OH starting 2027
- Partnerships with State and Federal Government
  - Cooperation/collaboration between ODA & USDA
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USDA, ODA, and Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)
  - Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division and Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) co-located
  - State Meat, Dairy, and Food Safety Inspection Programs
- Partnerships with Industry Groups, Veterinary Organizations, and Academia
  - Interaction with Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and Ohio Dairy Veterinarians Group
  - Collaboration with Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPC)

    - Interaction with Ohio Poultry Association (OPA) through work with Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program
    - Interaction with The Ohio State University Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
    - Strong Extension/4-H programs and history of cooperation with State and Federal staff
- Information Technology (IT) systems
    - USAHerds, USA LIMS, electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVIs), mobile certificates of veterinary inspection (mCVIs), and EMRS

Weaknesses

- Human Resources and Personnel Capabilities
    - Limited personnel resources to monitor animal movements
    - Ensuring consistency of data entry across the multiple staff that conduct traceability activities.
    - No fulltime State ADT Coordinator currently
- Regulations
    - No mandatory ID or record keeping requirements for intrastate movement, except for sheep and goats
    - Voluntary premises registration
- Technology
    - Some accredited veterinarians still using paper-based CVIs and very limited IT usage, such as RFID or MIMS.
    - Data/information sharing difficulties due to a lack of IT portal between State and Federal systems
- Lack of resources to distribute RFIDs and other official IDs
- Insufficient office space for ODA personnel

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities

- Increase use of currently available technologies
- Standardize inspection and enforcement
- Increase animal marketability for OH producers
- Increase cooperation and collaboration with industry
- Quickly identify ownership of displaced animals
- Improve data sharing between states and stakeholders
- Construction of new Dr. Tony Forshey Animal Health building that will house the Ohio Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. This will have more space for staff and allow for better collaboration within the Division and build capacity for working with stakeholders

- Transition from USAHerds to AgEnterprise to allow for updated databases and increased abilities and features for data entry
- ODA implemented fees for paper-CVI's to increase eCVI utilization

Threats

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

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

Human resources

- The following office positions have some responsibility within animal traceability: Asst. State Veterinarian, (1) Ag Inspection Administrator, (3) Program Administrators, (3) Licensure Examiners, and (1) Customer Service Asst.
- The following ODA Animal Health field staff positions: (5) Veterinary Administrators and (9) Animal Health Inspectors.
- The following USDA APHIS VS field staff positions: (4) Veterinarians, (1) Epidemiology Officer; (1) Emergency Response Coordinator, (2) Animal Health Technicians and (1) Animal Identification Coordinator.

Computerized data management

- Animal disease traceability and animal health information records are contained within USAHerds and USALims including premises, ICVIs, and state-disease program data including tuberculosis test data and official vaccination data.
- Additional traceability data can be uploaded into USAHerds when provided to ODA from outside sources.

- Data can be exported out of USAHerds for dissemination to other States, Tribes, Territories and USDA upon request.
- The data management system is currently transitioning from USAHerds to AgEnterprise.
- Current storage space is adequate to maintain this information.
- ODAs IT security is composed of a watch guard perimeter firewall.
- All data stored on ODA servers is backed-up nightly on site and backed up bi-weekly offsite.

Organization of existing paper record systems

- Prior to implementing USAHerds in 2013, paper records were retained for 2 years filed by the month received. The current year was kept in the office and the previous year stored off site.
- Animal and TB test information is entered into USAHerds to identify the farm on which the animal was tested. TB test charts are kept in-house for a minimum of 5 years. Paper charts are filed alphabetically by owners name and year.
- Brucellosis test charts are stored in the ADDL USALIMS database. A paper copy is scanned and attached to the accession pertaining to the testing . This information is kept for a minimum of 3 years.
- Brucellosis vaccination certificates are stored on site for 7 years. All information on these certificates is captured in USAHerds.
- Official animal identification application and distribution records kept electronically for a minimum of 5 years.

Automated data capture capability

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

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

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

3.2 Mission Statement

Protecting the Health of Livestock and Poultry: The Division of Animal Health is charged with protecting and promoting the health of Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. Responsibilities include livestock and

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

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goals

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

4.2 Programmatic goals

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

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

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

When possible, out-of-state official IDs are forwarded to the state of origin, so they may used to fulfill one of their TPM quotas.

TPM activities are initiated by ADT staff after coordinating with ODA personnel following the process established by the ADT staff in effort to have consistent measures nationally. The length of time spent on a specific TPM and whether the trace is successfully completed is recorded. For the previous reported year (2023_24) the average time for Ohio to complete any of the 4 TPM types was 0.21 hours. Ohio has consistently ranked faster than the national average on time it takes to complete the TPM activities.

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

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

ODA will report any compliance issue related to the tracing of TPM exercises to the OH Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) and in the ADT workbook.

4.4 Data requirements

Ohio standards for official identification for interstate movement are outlined by species and purpose in the Import Regulations (OAC 901:1-17) and in compliance with federal regulations. Additional official identification standards include: captive cervid official identification (OAC 901:1-1-04 and 9 CFR 55.25); Scrapie Identification (OAC 901:1-13-04 and 9 CFR 79.2); and Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules (OAC 901:1-18 Exhibition of Animals and OAC 901-19-05 requiring cattle and swine to be minimally identified with an official eartag that is a USDA APHIS approved electronic device that is both visibly and electronically readable).

Ohio promotes use of RFID for official ear tag identification. Official identification eartag distribution records are currently maintained at ODA in an electronic spreadsheet including the tag series number, recipient, and date the tags were distributed. Accredited veterinarians send records of RFID and NUES tags that they distribute to producers to ODA for tag transfer in AIMS, and a new electronic form was recently implemented. All official identification numbers recorded on Brucella vaccination charts, ICVIs, OSS, and tuberculosis test records are entered into USAHerds. Tagging sites and approved distributors are required to keep records of tag

distributions. These records are routinely monitored at licensed dealers and/or livestock markets by VMOs/AHTs during quarterly inspection. ODA can monitor and confirm (via AIMS) that approved distributors are properly maintaining distribution information. Other livestock entities that are approved tagging sites, are subject to record reviews, and submit ICVI/OSS with tagging records to ODA office within 7 days of movement.

In addition to ICVIs, Ohio accepts Owner Shipper Statements (OSS) for specific interstate animal movement documents in:

- Cattle and bison movement in accordance with OAC 901:1-17-03 and OAC 901:1-17-04
- Equine in accordance with OAC 901:1-17-07

Ohio permits swine movement in accordance with Ohio's Import rule (OAC 901:1-17-09). Commuter herd agreements (Swine Protection Health Plans) are valid for 2 years after proper signatures have been captured. Animal movements are reported to both the source and destination states weekly; for Ohio that data is then uploaded into USAHerds. Typically group number used for identification. There is coordination with other states as well as external databases like AgView as necessary for swine movements.

4.5 Information technology plan

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

- Develop and implement electronic-based systems for health documents (i.e., TB, Brucellosis, EIA (Equine Infectious Anemia), etc.).
- Develop and plan for a forward-facing portal for use by industry and accredited veterinarians to submit regulatory forms, test charts, applications for license, secure online payment, etc. as part of the long-term plan for ADT and IT.
- Develop and deliver information systems improvements to digitize the records created and delivered to program staff from field activities (i.e., Notice of Violations (NOV's), dealer records, dealer audit documents, etc.).
- Develop and deliver information systems improvement to enhance digital applications for licenses and records sharing and upload/download for ADT and Livestock Dealer activity, such as dealer sales records, animal movement records, animal identification records, bills of sale, etc.

Benefits to the above listed objectives include:

- Reduced numbers of paper documents processed by ODA
- Increased processing efficiency by staff

- Improved data management by reducing time spent manually transcribing data into USAHERDS
- Increased data accuracy and reduced clerical or legibility errors, which promotes traceability
- Reduced transit time for dealer records delivery to program staff and reduced time and resources spent by field staff driving and performing low-productivity work in order to acquire records

If Ohio secures a state ADT coordinator, their knowledge and expertise, as well as the relationships they would form with other states, could provide valuable insight in how Ohio can enhance and more efficiently utilize our data management programs to achieve the above objectives. There would be a designated person to develop and implement the above improvements.

4.6 Resource requirements

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

There is some cross training and overlap of responsibility when it comes to ADT related tasks, but we do not have a strong continuing operation plan (COOP) in place. A state coordinator would be instrumental in enhancing a COOP. Having a central person knowledgeable and capable of all components of our ADT program, in addition to the field and office staff who are trained, would have the added protection of multiple people being familiar with any given aspect of Ohio's ADT program.

4.7 Organizational needs

Currently our ADT program spreads the responsibilities over several office and field staff. While this current organizational style has been in place for many years, having a coordinator would increase efficiency and allow for greater forward progression.

4.7.1 Executive support

Current executive authorities are aware of the importance of ADT and support the efforts made to improve Ohio's ADT program. Administrative authorities are updated with major accomplishments

of the ADT working group and are frequently included in meetings to discuss improvement strategies for the program.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Ohio can improve the coordination and oversight of ADT procedures with the implementation of an ADT coordinator. Ohio does not have an ADT advisory group. Currently, brainstorming and executing ideas to improve ADT measures is conducted by the ADT working group. These tasks are in addition to their routine field and office duties. Plans are then presented to the State and Assistant State Veterinarians and the AVIC with feedback from field staff if appropriate as well. While the working group does meet regularly, it is inconsistent and dependent on the present situation and workload. Members of the working group have started to look at other state's ADT programs and created relationships with those personnel. Discussions have uncovered several ways Ohio could improve our ADT program. For example, conversations with other states have looked at how they implement and utilize panel readers in livestock markets.

4.7.3 Policy

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

- In 2021, ODA began adding fees for paper CVI booklets to encourage the shift to using electronic CVIs and align with ADT general standards.
- In 2024, Ohio Exhibition rules were updated requiring official ID that is visibly and electronically readable for all cattle and swine at Ohio exhibitions effective Jan 1, 2027.
- ODA plans to develop policy and implement electronic information systems, requiring licensees to use these systems to promote agency objectives and ADT goals.

4.7.4 Staffing

Currently all Animal Health personnel have at least a small role in ADT. Some staff are more involved, especially the program administrators, animal health inspectors in the field, and certified license examiners that help manage health certificates.

Various qualifications of staff are needed. Those in the office are trained in USAHERDS and database management and will be

trained in Ag Enterprise. Field staff are trained in regulations regarding proper ID and have necessary knowledge of the industry and relationships to move ADT forward by supplying markets and producers with tags and answering questions related to official ID. Many of the field staff are also familiar with USAHerds and will be trained in Ag Enterprise. Professional credentials and certification are not an issue currently. Training in various programs and regulations as well as proper onboarding of new staff is necessary for continued success.

ADT information is an add-on "coordinated by committee" with many human resources being leveraged to carry out the ADT plan. These current resources are also tasked with additional job duties and responsibilities. A State ADT coordinator would be able to focus solely on Ohio's ADT program and work towards achieving Ohio's ADT goals outlined in this Road Map. A State ADT Coordinator is vital for an organized and cohesive effort.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

Ohio receives federal financial support through the ADT cooperative agreement. The funding provided through the ADT agreement from Fiscal Year 2024 to 2025 was decreased from $88,000 to $83,623. While these funds support Ohio's ADT program, they fall short of covering the expenses incurred from baseline ADT activities performed by office and field staff. Ohio's current ADT award does not fully cover the duties performed by one full-time office staff member. The remaining ADT responsibilities are funded by the State of Ohio, which strains the current budget for ODA Division of Animal Health. Ohio has requested additional NADPRP funds to fund a state ADT coordinator position along with additional resources such as RFID readers for accredited veterinarians with an emphasis on those veterinarians that have a role at fairs, exhibitions, and livestock markets.

Additional ADT plans such as improving Ohio's IT capabilities; prioritizing transitioning from a primarily paper-based data system to one that is electronic and automated, further pulls funding from an already constrained budget. While we may never be completely paperless, ODA is working to develop and promote electronic versions of ADT related forms and heath papers. Automating field and dealer activities and records will require further supplemental funding.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

Accredited veterinarians play an important role in ADT outreach and compliance. It is imperative that we keep them informed of changing ADT guidelines or regulations.

With partners at USDA, we plan to provide outreach to accredited veterinarians via a twice-yearly newsletter, targeting relevant regulatory topics, including ADT.

ODA field veterinarians have had a presence at a variety of conferences, including the annual Midwest Veterinary Conference, to support outreach to Ohio veterinarians talking one-on-one, answering questions, informing them of regulatory changes, and providing educational handouts.

ODA Division of Communication has collaborated with the Division of Animal Health on outreach and education initiatives on ADT topics including podcasts, social media posts, and YouTube videos.

Veterinarians provide a vital role in issuing CVIs, verifying and applying official identification, and performing required disease testing. Their role in educating clients about RFID technology and applying and distributing RFID eartags to clients cannot be undervalued.

Animal ID/ traceability is part of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) core orientation for graduating veterinarians. Both ODA and USDA VS staff present the NVAP material to veterinary students and practitioners, which includes a specific section on ADT. In 2024, 14 courses were taught with 75 practitioners and 178 veterinary students in attendance.

A portion of Ohio's 2025 NADPRP grant proposal focused on securing funding for RFID readers and supporting equipment (such as compatible tablets with apps for scanning and exporting RFID information) for Ohio accredited veterinarians particularly veterinarians that serve as official livestock market veterinarians and official fair veterinarians across the state. Training on how to utilize the RFID readers and equipment would also be provided.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

Slaughter facilities in Ohio are routinely visited during Blood Tissue Collection (BTC) inspections. Discussion and review of animal movement and identification requirements occur during these visits. These visits also allow us to continue to support ongoing communication and relationships with slaughter facilities.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

ODA collaborates with USDA APHIS VS for outreach to industry and producers. We rely on various methods to reach out to Industry including in-person and virtual meetings, email, mailings, website updates, and even social

media. Ohio industry includes all livestock species, as well as equine, cervid & camelids.

For Producers

- ODA & USDA staff are available for outreach meetings with stakeholders upon invitation. In the past this included speaking at events such as Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) and the Ohio State University (OSU) Producer meetings.
- ODA has a booth at the Farm Science Review and handouts are available at the Ohio Quarter Horse Congress, Ohio Dairy Expo, Ohio Beef Expo, Ohio Swine Health Symposium, and other venues in Ohio.
- ADT is emphasized at commodity meetings and through appropriate committees such as small ruminant, cervid, swine health, cattle health and others.
- ADT information is included with distribution of official ID through ODA or Accredited Veterinarians
- Voluntary premises registration is encouraged
- USDA/ODA field personnel provide handouts to fair boards, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) meetings, cattle shows, grazing conferences, livestock markets / concentration points, and veterinary clinics.

For Livestock Markets and Dealers

- Livestock auction markets and concentration yards are licensed as dealers in Ohio with required records review and audits of animal movements, required documentation and ID.
- ODA & USDA AHTs & VMOs routinely visit to discuss and review animal movements, documentation and ID as well as perform outreach with managers & employees regarding ADT requirements including posting information at these facilities.
- All of Ohio's federally approved markets are also approved tagging sites; therefore, increased education is conducted at these facilities and for the employees with regard to animal movement, documentation and ID responsibilities.
- Staff continue efforts in registering markets and dealers as official tagging sites when applicable with their activities.
- Joint ODA/USDA meetings are held regularly to ensure established oversight procedures (such as the market inspection checklist) are being conducted consistently

For Exhibitions

- Conducted outreach meetings with cattle industry associations
- Collaboration with OSU Extension Quality Assurance programming to develop ADT videos
- For ODA/USDA field staff conducting outreach to fairs, there are educational materials available including PPTs and handouts
- Annual fair vet training meetings are held reviewing ID and CVI requirements for accredited fair veterinarians

For Undeserved Communities

- Collaborate with The Ohio State University Extension and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation to assist with information dissemination
- Utilize small farm conferences to assist with further information dissemination

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

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

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

Ohio's first priority for advancing our ADT program would be to secure a state Animal Disease Traceability coordinator position. We have several people that are knowledgeable about individual pieces of our ADT program but not one single point person, which is necessary to move our program forward. This position would be responsible for planning, implementing, educating, and energizing ADT efforts. Someone with an IT or data management background and animal health knowledge would be best suited to coordinate our efforts. An ADT coordinator would be able to help train field staff regarding RFID technology and provide education and outreach to various stakeholders including producers, veterinarians, livestock markets, and fairs. Such a position could also improve our current ADT-related practices and work to utilize data to help increase efficiency.

Secondly, Ohio prioritizes increasing usage of RFID eartags for efficiency and accuracy reading, recording, and transmitting animal ID information. In 2024 and 2025, Ohio allocated ADT cooperative agreement funds to purchase swine RFID tags to assist with traceability at Ohio fairs and exhibitions. This will aid compliance with new exhibition rules that require all cattle and swine to have official eartags that are both electronically and visually readable starting January 1, 2027. Additionally, Ohio prioritizes promoting RFID technology to help demonstrate the effectiveness, capabilities and benefits of RFID tag usage. Ohio has several different models of RFID readers available to borrow at no cost to veterinarians, producers, livestock markets, and exhibitions through the ODA RFID Reader Loan Program. ODA has 25 RFID readers, with several of these on semi-permanent loan to livestock markets. During 2024, readers were loaned out 60 times to approximately 38 fairs as well as veterinarians and livestock markets. This loan program is growing in popularity, which provides opportunities for this technology to be utilized and demonstrates how valuable it can be. ODA could improve the RFID reader loan program by providing better support to our markets and fairs in using the wands to their full potential by training field staff on how to use readers in the field and how to troubleshoot issues. An ADT coordinator would be very helpful with this endeavor.

Thirdly, Ohio would like to focus on improving and refining the IT component of our ADT program. Specifically, we would like to enhance electronic data sharing, increase the ADT data we are capturing and streamline its integration into our existing software programs, as well as update IT capabilities. There are many opportunities to increase utilization of electronic formatting and submission of health documents, regulatory forms, license applications and other documents and records. An ODA ADT coordinator that is knowledgeable in the IT field has the potential to significantly improve Ohio's IT component of our ADT program and take it to the next level. Enhancing electronic sharing of data requires that we not only capture the pertinent data but also put it in a useful form that is readily available. To be able to set an alert for a particular ID or find within a few keystrokes the most recent location of a particular ID could stop many contagious diseases in their tracks. It is not enough to identify the animals and record the location, time and date—this information must be available and in a useful form exactly when needed. Equipment as well as data management and data movement is vital to this goal.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Reiterating what has already been presented, Ohio seeks to obtain an ADT state coordinator. Securing such a position is crucial to providing a foundation on which Ohio can continue to build our ADT program and is our highest priority. Once the position is filled then the newly appointed coordinator can work with the various ODA staff involved with ADT to become familiar with Ohio's ADT program. Moving forward the

coordinator can create and build relationships with other coordinators and ADT experts. The current ADT working group would coordinate with the newly appointed position to help facilitate these goals.

This roadmap outlines Ohio's ADT goals in the coming years. We would like to continue supporting county and independent fairs in utilizing RFID technology. A coordinator would be able to orchestrate loaning and rotating RFID readers to fair contacts as well as being able to provide support in utilizing RFID technology in the field. We recently applied for an NADPRP grant which among other ADT focused goals includes funding an state ADT coordinator; ODA also proposed a funding request for 50 RFID readers to provide to accredited veterinarians with an emphasis on those veterinarians also performing livestock market and exhibition duties. Along with the reader we intend to provide a compatible tablet and appropriate training to help ensure the veterinarians have the knowledge and skill to utilize these readers to their full potential. An ADT coordinator would be vital in organizing and overseeing the distribution of these readers and the associated training. Ohio would also like to evaluate incorporating RFID technology in livestock markets including installing panel readers to capture EID data. An ADT coordinator would oversee this endeavor and provide support and knowledge to field staff and livestock market personnel. This person would also brainstorm and implement ideas to improve the IT portion of the program and help determine ways to continue to move towards digitalization along with more efficient ways to collect and use data.

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