



# **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Advancing Animal Disease Traceability Road Map for Oregon**

A THREE-YEAR PLAN

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Submitted June 01, 2021

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# 1 Executive Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has the responsibility to take measures to prevent, control, and eradicate contagious and communicable diseases of livestock in Oregon. To this task, the ODA must rely on its ability to locate infected possibly exposed animals as quickly as possible. Having credible animal identification and other epidemiological information is key to a successful resolution of a disease outbreak. Oregon has an efficient animal disease traceability (ADT) system in place, however, continual upgrades and improvements must be made to stay current with evolving technologies, capabilities, and regulatory expectations. Our system contains both electronically generated and digitized paper-based form data. We continue to expand our electronic based forms and electronic based data entry capabilities to meet the ultimate goal of tracing animals at the speed of commerce.

Our functional traceability system includes databases that contain certain animal health related information as well as change of animal ownership transactions associated with livestock brand inspection requirements. Our program has the physical addresses for thousands of livestock operations as well as owner contact and animal species information for each transaction.

Oregon currently uses the following systems to aid in disease traceability:

- Animal health import permits and Interstate Certificate of Inspection (ICVI) are required for entry into Oregon and their data are stored in a state database. This information is searchable by our staff and can be exported in various formats to communicate with other federal or state database systems if needed.
- Brucellosis Official Calfhood Vaccinate (OCV) ear tags, official USDA bright tags, and official RFID identification information are recorded in our state database. This information is searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed, and official ID device numbers are uploaded into the USDA Animal Health Event Repository nightly. This activity is heavily supported by APHIS funds.
- Key information on outgoing ICVI's is recorded in our state database. This information is searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed. All outgoing ICVI's, including paper-based certificates are sent to other states in a digital format compliant with the USAHA eCVI Data Standard. This activity is heavily supported by APHIS funds.
- Oregon has developed an online database which allows accredited veterinarians to generate ICVIs, Brucellosis Vaccination Records, Tuberculosis Test Reports, Brucellosis Test Reports, and Equine Infectious Anemia Reports electronically, free of charge. This database is also shared with Washington State allowing Washington Accredited Veterinarians access to the system.
- Livestock auction market brand inspection records, including consignor address, buyer address, and destination address, are entered into state database within 24 hours of the sale. Data are searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed.
- Private party field brand inspections are scanned and partially entered into state

databases. These documents are searchable by our staff and are available for exporting in a number of different formats if needed.

Oregon's long-term plan is to continually review our current systems and determine how they can be improved in order to increase our ability to meet traceability goals established in USDA'S framework for animal disease traceability. It is our goal to reduce the amount of paper-based data we have to process. Oregon's data systems are capable of accepting RFID data, and ODA has been working with accredited veterinarians and producers to support voluntary adoption of RFID by providing free RFID ear tags and cost-free RFID reader loans. APHIS funding has been used to purchase RFID readers for use at livestock markets, as well as short-term loans to accredited veterinarians and livestock producers.

Oregon currently relies on APHIS funding to pay for personnel for data input and data maintenance for the ADT program. Without this funding, Oregon would not be able to accomplish our goals with current personnel.

## 2 Current Traceability Status

### 2.1 WHO ARE WE?

The Animal Health (AHP) and Livestock Identification program activities are an integral part of the Food Safety and Animal Health Program Area located within the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Our stakeholders include livestock producers as well as the general public. Livestock based industries continue to be a top contributor to the state of Oregon's economy. Additionally, we strive to partner closely with other states to enhance trade and movement of livestock and their products. We provide the assurance that healthy animals and wholesome products are in commerce channels. We use our animal traceability capabilities to quickly trace and investigate reports of disease to source locations as well as any high-risk contacts. Our livestock traceability system is also used to assist food safety related trace backs and investigations.

### 2.2 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The work to build an efficient animal traceability system began over ten years ago with the implementation of an electronic brand inspection database for use at approved markets in Oregon. The Livestock Identification program decided to design its system around commercially available software rather than spending undue amount of time and money developing an in-house system. Ft. Supply Technologies was the company used to supply the on-line data management services. Data transfer hubs were installed in all of Oregon's livestock markets. Markets are the sites of the majority of change of ownerships for cattle and brand inspection protocols at those sites were already in place. A brand inspection for cattle is mandatory in Oregon when there is a change of ownership, when animals leave the state, and at slaughter. Hand held electronic data loggers are used by agency brand inspectors to record all change of ownership transactions during market sales. The data collected is downloaded automatically into our database at the end of every sale. Private party brand inspections are still paper based although records are stored electronically with searchable owner and location information fields.

Currently, the Livestock Identification Program has over 10 years of brand inspection related data stored in our database. This information, when coupled with the Animal Health Program (AHP) related data (e.g., animal identification from CVIs, identification from brucellosis testing, identification TB testing and certain laboratory testing), provides powerful traceability capabilities. The AHP database and Livestock Identification program databases are closely linked allowing for quick and efficient traceability capabilities.

Building on the success of our brand inspection databases, the AHP began developing an animal health traceability database in 2015. For over 5 years now, ODA has been digitizing all paper traceability records, including CVIs, Brucellosis Vaccination records, Official Identification reports, and Tuberculosis Test Records, and storing them in our searchable database. This database captures location information as well as all official identification into searchable fields within the database, recording approximately 500,000 individual official identification devices annually. All paper CVIs that are digitized through our database are

shared electronically with receiving states with an XML data file, allowing Oregon to share 100% of Oregon-origin export CVIs as electronic CVIs, regardless of the original format of the CVI.

In 2018, ODA continued our efforts to advance the implementation of electronic traceability records by developing and releasing the Oregon Veterinarian Information System, an online system developed by ODA to provide Oregon accredited veterinarians cost-free access to electronic CVIs, as well as test and vaccine records. In 2019, this system was expanded to provide cost-free access to Washington accredited veterinarians. ODA currently receives over 2/3 of all Oregon-origin traceability documents electronically through the OVIS system.

In September 2020, Oregon became one of the first states in the nation to begin automatically sharing all animal health events with the USDA's Animal Health Event Repository (AHER). Animal health events (official identification device, encounter type, encounter date) are automatically shared each night with USDA, and historic records dating back to 2018 have been uploaded to AHER.

Beginning in January 2020, ODA began distributing free RFID eartags to Oregon accredited veterinarians as well as Oregon livestock producers. To date, ODA has distributed approximately 180,000 free RFID eartags. To support the adoption of RFID devices, ODA created an RFID tag reader loan program for veterinarians as well as Oregon livestock producers. ODA maintains several sets of RFID readers and handheld PDA devices which are loaned free-of-charge to accredited veterinarians and Oregon livestock producers to allow evaluation of several different RFID reader models in their operations.

### **2.3 STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES**

The first and foremost strength of our ADT program is the quality and knowledge base of our personnel. Our brand inspectors know the industry in which they work, and locally they are known and respected by the producers in the communities where they work and live. Because of their strong connection to the local livestock communities, our brand inspectors also know the local livestock industries and how/when livestock move within the state, providing critical knowledge and experience in intra-state traceability.

Building on the local knowledge and experience of our Brand Inspectors, ODA's District Veterinarians and State Veterinarian provide extensive knowledge of the statewide ADT system. ODA's Animal Health traceability databases were designed and developed in-house by one of our District Veterinarians (now the Oregon State Veterinarian), allowing those systems to be developed to meet the exact needs of Oregon, while meeting the goals of the national ADT system.

Among the challenges for the AHID program is a lack of funding for personnel to do data entry, and funding to continue supporting the modernization of the traceability infrastructure among accredited veterinarians and a livestock markets.

### **2.4 OPPORTUNITIES**

In February 2021, the Animal Health Program hired a new position which will be dedicated 1/3



FTE towards ADT implementation and outreach (funded by ADT cooperative agreement funds). This position provides an incredible opportunity to make dedicated knowledge and expertise available to Oregon accredited veterinarians and livestock producers as they seek to implement RFID, electronic documents, and other modern ADT systems into their practices and livestock operations. This position will also provide centralized coordination of a number of outreach and engagement efforts that ODA has been doing around ADT implementation such as RFID educational resources and RFID reader loan programs.

## **2.5 INVENTORY OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT**

### 2.5.1 Human Resources

The Animal Health Program currently consists of two office staff, one Program Disease and Traceability Coordinator, two District Veterinarians, and one State Veterinarian. The Animal Health Program is augmented by the Livestock Identification Program, which consists of one brand recorder, 57 brand inspectors, two clerks, four regional supervisors, and one program manager.

Two Animal Health office personnel are tasked with digitizing paper documents received from Accredited Veterinarians. These documents include Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, Brucellosis vaccination and TB test reports, as well as state Official Identification reports.

The Program Disease and Traceability Coordinator provides coordination of ADT outreach and resources to ensure accredited veterinarians and livestock producers in Oregon have access to resources and information to support the continued modernization of Oregon's ADT system.

The State Veterinarian and Livestock Identification Program Manager work closely to provide oversight and support for the ADT program.

### 2.5.2 Space Availability

ODA has adequate office space.

### 2.5.3 Connectivity Resources

The Oregon Department of Agriculture follows the State of Oregon protocol for connectivity of our systems.

With the use of prior APHIS funding, ODA worked to ensure connectivity of our personnel at the livestock auctions to our systems in Salem. This has provided ODA with all auction yard data within 24 hours of the end of each sale, and in most cases, within minutes of the sale ending.

Through the use of the OVIS online system, ODA is able to capture interstate movement of animals as well as official identification in near real-time from private accredited veterinarians in the field. 100% of the data entered by veterinarians in the OVIS system is available within the Animal Health traceability databases within 15 minutes of document issuance.

### 2.5.4 Access to USDA ADT and State Animal Health Program Resources

ODA has worked to ensure connectivity to a number of APHIS databases. The Animal Health Program uploads all animal health events into the APHIS Animal Health Events Repository

(AHER), in many cases less than 48 hours from the time that an event occurs in the field.

ODA utilizes the APHIS premises allocator through our Animal Health traceability database, allowing AHP staff to generate premises ID numbers (PINs) in near real-time as a part of normal business processes.

ODA tracks the allocation of all official ID devices (metal tags and RFID tags), as well as all paper regulatory forms, including bulk receipt at our storage warehouse, receipt of items in our office for distribution, and the final distribution of items. This system provides real-time tracking of all devices and forms in our inventory, as well as the final allocation to veterinarians. These records are correlated with animal health events in the ADT database to ensure that distribution records are returned in any official identification searches performed.

#### 2.5.5 Organization of all Paper Records Used to Access ADT Information

All paper Animal Health ADT records have been scanned and stored digitally in the Animal Health ADT database since prior to 2017. Key information including document information (type, date, document number, etc), location information, and official identification are transcribed into the database to ensure searchability.

#### 2.5.6 Computerized Data Management Capability

The Animal Health and Livestock Identification Programs rely on the IT infrastructure of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. This infrastructure meets the requirements set forth by the State of Oregon. ODA's ADT databases are housed on a virtual server within ODA's in-house server farm. This provides scalability to meet increasing storage and processing capabilities as needed. Data is backed up nightly, with the maintenance of the three most recent daily, weekly, monthly and yearly backups. Monthly and yearly backups are stored off-site on physical tape media to ensure complete backup of all data in the event of a catastrophic failure.

#### 2.5.7 Automated Data Capture Capability

ODA utilizes several automated data capture technologies within the office, as well as in the field. The OVIS system allows veterinarians to enter all traceability through an online interface (including upload of RFID tag data), enabling the data to be utilized to create traceability documents. This data is automatically transferred to the Animal Health traceability databases and forwarded to receiving states following the USAHA XML data standard.

Paper documents are scanned using automatic document scanners which digitize documents. OCR technology allows some documents to be digitized to allow semi-automated capture of data including typewritten official ID lists.

ODA has also made several RFID reader kits (2 RFID readers with handheld PDA) available to veterinarians free of charge, as well as placing an RFID reader and tablet device at all Oregon livestock markets to allow for automated capture of RFID devices and the utilization of electronic documents at Oregon's livestock markets. To date, six of Oregon's seven livestock markets are utilizing RFID and/or electronic documents.



## **3 Traceability Requirements**

### **3.1 STRATEGIC GOAL(S)**

To develop/build upon and implement a statewide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State and USDA standards while providing support to Oregon accredited veterinarians and livestock producers.

### **3.2 PROGRAMMATIC GOAL(S) (OBJECTIVES)**

- Encourage electronic based traceability document utilization by Oregon accredited veterinarians
- Support the utilization of electronic based animal identification by Oregon accredited veterinarians and livestock producers
- Continue to have personnel enter crucial data into our database systems
- Provide outreach to Oregon accredited veterinarians and livestock producers about the utilization of electronic ID devices and electronic document platforms

### **3.3 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

ODA has consistently met or exceeding all four traceability performance measures. The combination of ODA's Livestock Identification and Animal Health databases provides the ability to rapidly trace animals in interstate and intrastate commerce.

ODA currently maintains 100% of the traceability documents received by Animal Health (CVIs, Brucellosis Vaccination, Tuberculosis Test, and Official ID Application records) and 100% of auction market brand inspection records, and the majority of field brand inspection records in searchable databases. In real-world examples, this has allowed for rapid traces of livestock in disease situations, interstate movement violations, and stray livestock cases. ODA also exceeded all 4 National Priority Trace exercises assigned as a part of the FY2020 cooperative agreement cycle

ODA also maintains electronic official tag distribution records dating back to the early 1990's. In many cases, for any given NUES9 identification number, we have 2-3 records of distribution as tag number are recycled every 10-12 years. In 2020 our distribution records database was updated to support the use of barcode scanners to reduce error rates in manual data entry and speed data collection of official identification devices received and distributed to veterinarians and producers.

### **3.4 DATA REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.4.1 Location Information Standards**

ODA has integrated the ability to issue Premises Identification Numbers (PIN) through the USDA PIN Allocator within the Animal Health ADT database. This has allowed PINs to be integrated into numerous business processes, as well as simplifying the processes of issuing and searching PINs. This system also allows the validation of PINs when distributing official identification devices to veterinarians and producers.

When entering scanned paper traceability documents, ODA staff record the city, state, and zip code of the document to allow for searching by locations. In practice, this has shown to provide sufficient granularity for searching, while also balancing the time and error rate associated with entering full street addresses.

3.4.2 Will the State be using official identification ear tags beyond only accredited veterinarians as a part of regulatory work?

Yes, Oregon has provided NUES9 “bright” tags to Oregon livestock producers for a number of years to use as official identification. Beginning in 2020, ODA has also provided livestock producers free white RFID ear tags for use as official identification in their livestock.

3.4.3 What volume of official identification tags is expected for use?

In 2020, ODA distributed approximately 150,000 NUES9 “Bangs” tags, 20,000 NUES9 “Bright” tags, 61,120 orange RFID “Bangs” tags, and 35,000 white RFID tags. Our distribution of RFID tags during that time was artificially constrained by supply chain issues, and our distribution of RFID tags is expected to significantly increase in future years.

3.4.4 What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?

ODA requires physical addresses for the origin and destination locations on all commuter herd agreements, as well as a name and contact phone number for owner and manager at the destination. ODA requires that official identification be present on all animals as applicable under 9 CFR Part 86.

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

ODA currently shares all Oregon origin CVIs with destination states along with all data included in the Animal Health ADT database associated with the CVI as required by 9 CFR Part 86. Additionally, ODA shares events (Official ID, date, event type) with the Animal Health Event Repository on a daily basis.

Additional data will be shared as needed or on a case-by-case bases when requested by a State Animal Health Official. The same policy applies to sharing data with tribes, territories and USDA.

### 3.5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

ODA has worked hard to build a solid IT infrastructure. Projected needs for IT are as follows:

- FY2021 It may be necessary to replace some old equipment used for data input and printing. Equipment was originally purchased with APHIS funds. This may consist of desktop computers or laptops and can vary depending on need. Additionally, ODA plans to extend the use of handheld RFID readers to include at least one handheld UHF RFID reader. Supplemental funds will be used to purchase additional RFID readers for long-term use by accredited veterinarians.
- FY2022 As in FY2021 it may be necessary to replace some old equipment used for data input and printing. Additional handheld RFID readers for long-term loans and fixed RFID systems for livestock markets may be purchased depending on availability of funds and

demand.

- -FY2023 Similar to FY2022.

### 3.6 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

ODA does not anticipate significant new physical resource needs in the near future. Our focus is primarily on providing outreach to veterinarians and livestock producers, as well as supporting the use of RFID through distribution of RFID tags as well as RFID reader loans.

### 3.7 ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS

The State of Oregon has structured the Animal Health program to fall within the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Within this structure, all organizational needs are met.

#### 3.7.1 Executive Support

ODA has a clear and open chain of command that culminates with the Oregon Director of Agriculture. In reference to this plan, the State Veterinarian is the primary executive and the Director supports the vision and mission of this plan.

#### 3.7.2 Coordination and Oversight Procedures

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has utilized an informal ADT advisory group when decisions about the direction of our ADT program have been needed. The Advisory Group that we have brought together includes cattle producers from the beef industry, dairy industry, feedlot industry and auction yard association. This group will be brought together when ODA needs input on how to proceed with goals. This group will also be asked to assist in informing producers in our state of issues concerning animal disease traceability.

ODA's State Veterinarian oversees the ADT program in Oregon. As systems are developed, emphasis is given to being able to share data across standard platforms.

#### 3.7.3 Policy

ODA has a clear and open chain of command that culminates with the Oregon Director of Agriculture. In reference to this plan, the State Veterinarian is the primary executive and the Director supports the vision and mission of this plan

#### 3.7.4 Staffing

See section 2.5, Human Resources section

#### 3.7.5 Budget Requirements

Currently, Oregon relies on our current APHIS funding to pay for personnel which input data into our databases as well as 0.33 FTE traceability coordinator position. Without this funding, Oregon would not be able to accomplish our goals with current personnel.

Projected three-year ADT Roadmap costs are based on static USDA cooperative agreement allocations. Funding expectations are as follows

FY2021~\$159,917

FY2022~\$159,917

FY2023~\$159,917

The Animal Health Program is funded by a combination of General Funds and Other Funds. The current state of the economy in Oregon over the past several years has pushed us to take further financial cuts in an already very lean program.

### 3.7.6 Outreach

Beginning in 2021, ODA has added a 0.33 FTE traceability program coordinator to the Animal Health Program funded by ADT funds. This position will be tasked with serving as a primary point of contact for the Oregon livestock industry on ADT questions, as well as providing assistance to accredited veterinarians, livestock markets, and livestock producers on ADT related topics.

#### 3.7.6.1 Cattle Industry

The State Veterinarian, Livestock Identification Program Manager, and other ODA staff meet regularly with our cattle industry through regional and statewide meetings and inform these groups of our progress. We also take this opportunity to gather input and direction from the industry.

ADT related articles have been submitted to industry publications when the need arises, and the traceability coordinator will continue this work with regular outreach to livestock producers in Oregon.

#### 3.7.6.2 Livestock Markets

Currently, auction yards work closely with the Livestock Identification Program in the process for collecting data. The data collected at these facilities has added thousands of addresses to the states data system, not to mention individual animal tracking data on every animal that passes through the markets.

ODA will conduct extensive outreach with livestock markets to educate them about the requirements of the law and steps that they need to take in order to be in compliance. Outreach on ADT related subjects are commonly discussed during quarterly market inspections.

#### 3.7.6.3 Accredited Veterinarians

ODA continues to work closely with Accredited Veterinarians in an effort to keep them apprised of current USDA ADT expectations/ requirements. Outreach messages are provided in the Animal Health Program's quarterly newsletter, our website, meetings/conferences and email.

ODA will provide practitioners with the latest information about the use of electronic ICVIs.

ODA requires ICVIs for all imported livestock and monitors export ICVIs for accuracy and timely submission.

## 3.8 MONITORING AND REPORTING INTERSTATE MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

Oregon currently uses the following systems to aid in disease traceability:

- Animal Health import permits and ICVIs are required for entry into Oregon and stored in

state database. Data is searchable by our staff and can be exported in various formats if needed. This task is heavily supported by APHIS funds

- Brucellosis OCV ear tag and bright tag information is recorded in the state database. Individual animal identification from TB test forms are also entered into our database. The information is searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed. This task is heavily supported by APHIS funds.
- Outgoing CVI's are recorded in the state database. Most data are searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed. This task is solely supported by APHIS funds.
- Livestock market brand inspection records (including ADT related information such as consignor address, buyer address, and destination address) are entered into state database within 24 hours of the end of a sale. The information is searchable by our staff and can be exported in other formats if needed.



## 4 Traceability Implementation

### 4.1 RANKING OF PRIORITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

ODA's ADT road map will build on previous accomplishments. The following activities are necessary to meet our objectives and that of USDA's framework for ADT.

#### 4.1.1 Fiscal Year 2021 Goals:

- Expand use of electronic based forms.
- Continue the digitizing of key paper-based forms so data can be stored and searched electronically.
- Expand promotion of using electronic based animal identification to the cattle industry.
- Support the voluntary implementation of RFID and electronic forms at Auction Markets in Oregon.

#### 4.1.2 Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Goals

- Expand use of electronic based forms.
- Continue the digitizing of key paper-based forms so data can be stored and searched electronically.
- Expand promotion of using electronic based animal identification to the cattle industry.
- Support the voluntary implementation of RFID and electronic forms at Auction Markets in Oregon.

### 4.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES

#### 4.2.1 Resources needed to meet FY2021 goals:

##### Personnel:

- Continue to utilize up to 1.0 FTE office staff to digitize paper-based documents. Paper based forms with important individual animal identification information to be recorded include: 1) brucellosis vaccination and TB test reports; 2) ICVIs, both Oregon origin and out of state; 3) private party brand inspections; and 4) official identification (i.e., NUES bright tag) usage reports from private practitioners.
- Begin utilizing 0.33 FTE program analyst 1 (Program Disease and Traceability Coordinator) to provide coordination of ADT-related activities as well as outreach to livestock producers and accredited veterinarians

##### ADT related travel:

- Travel for ADT program staff will be within the state.
- Travel for regional or national meetings may be required for ADT program managers. All travel related expenses will be as per protocols set by Oregon Department of Administrative Services and directly follow the federally approved rates.

##### Equipment and Supplies:

- It may be necessary to replace some old equipment used for data input and printing.

Equipment was originally purchased with APHIS funds and includes: desktop computers or laptops, scanners, and printers.

- Purchase of one or more handheld UHF RFID readers
- Purchase of additional handheld RFID readers for long-term loans to accredited veterinarians.

#### 4.2.2 Resources Needed to meet FY 2022-2023 Goals

Similar to FY2021 (see above).

Depending on livestock market interest, ODA may begin working with livestock markets to assist in purchase of fixed RFID reader systems to increase the utilization of RFID technologies in the livestock markets.