

2025 Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Florida

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

DR. MICHAEL A. SHORT

STATE VETERINARIAN, DIVISION DIRECTOR
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
407 S. CALHOUN ST, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0800
850-410-0900

Submitted to:

DR. KAYLA CRUM
AREA VETERINARIAN FOR FLORIDA
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

8100 NW 15TH PLACE, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32606
352-422-1660

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry (FDACS) has been working to increase Animal Disease Traceability for decades side by side with the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA). FDACS Florida ADT Road Map will continue this collaborative effort and support the goal of a comprehensive animal disease traceability system. The primary focus of the plan will continue to be based on the USDA framework.

- ❖ Advancement of electronic data sharing
- ❖ Increasing the utilization of electronic identification technology
- ❖ Encouraging the capture of birth to slaughter data points
- ❖ Facilitating the electronic submission of official certificates of veterinary inspection and other program documents.

Florida has a strong agricultural industry which is economically vital to the state. FDACS has the mission to “Safeguard Florida’s agriculture and public through animal disease control and emergency response.” Animal disease traceability is a core building block in our mission to safeguard our industries. Our ADT program is a key component of our animal disease preparedness.

FDACS works with industry stakeholders to engage with them regarding animal disease traceability and opportunities to improve our system. Some key activities which have been a part of our past ADT Road Maps and continue to be the core of our ongoing commitment to improving traceability in Florida.

- ✓ January 2013 – USDA published 9 CFR 86.
- ✓ September 2014 – Florida Cattle Identification Rule (Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code) became effective.
- ✓ Spring 2017 – FDACS participated in the USDA Stakeholder Listening Sessions.
- ✓ June 2017 – Florida Cattlemen’s Association formed a Cattle Identification Taskforce.
 - Multi-sector representation, industry led group.
 - Goal was to increase the utilization of official identification.
 - Consensus points:
 - Animal Disease Traceability is needed.
 - A National System must utilize electronic technology.
 - A mandatory system will be required to be fully efficient and comprehensive. The Task Force acknowledged the difficulties of marketing a “Mandatory” rather than a “Voluntary” system.
 - Official Identification should be applied as animals first enter commerce to link them to premises of origin.
 - This taskforce went on to participate in a multi-state demonstration project with TX and KS.
- ✓ Florida veterinarians have been very progressive in the transition to electronic documentation and data sharing.
 - Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
 - Over 90% of the livestock (including equine) certificates are electronic.
 - Multiple vendors are providing these certificates.
 - FDACS continues to work extensively with accredited veterinarians regarding electronic submission of other official documents.

- These documents are entered into the federal database.
 - Over 85% of bovine documents are electronic.
- ✓ FDACS utilizes federal databases for the management of animal health and animal movement data. All data migration is seamless and ensures compatibility with AHER.

The FDACS, Division of Animal Industry (DAI) is funded primarily through general revenue dollars with no funding designated specifically for traceability. Only programs supported by fee-generated revenue are guaranteed to be funded. Cost-sharing is achieved via the use of general revenue monies. Existing funding will be utilized in support of traceability programs to the extent that funds are available. Much of the current work that is carried out for disease prevention and control involves traceability activities. In recent years, state contributions have covered approximately 40% of the cost of traceability programs. Ongoing support through USDA Cooperative Agreements is a critical part of the funding for the ADT program.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

FDACS, Division of Animal Industry (DAI) is primarily responsible for implementing traceability initiatives and will be referred to as DAI for remainder of document.

DAI Resources –

- ✦ Administration
 - State Veterinarian & Division Director
 - Assistant Division Director
- ✦ Bureau Chief, Animal Disease Control
 - Program Managers
 - Cattle & Cervid – also ADT Coordinator
 - Swine & Small Ruminant
 - Equine
 - Poultry
 - Companion Animal
- ✦ Field Team
 - Veterinary Medical Officers – 5 (located across the state)
 - District Supervisors – 6
 - District animal health inspectors – 32

Florida’s ADT program depends on working relationships with many external parties as well as individual producers. Livestock and poultry owners in Florida range in size from owners of “back yard” flocks and herds to some of the nation’s largest brood cow herds. The DAI is charged with protecting and assisting producers from all sectors. Collaboration between USDA, DAI, veterinary practitioners, livestock markets, and producers is used to facilitate the statewide Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program.

Since 2004, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has joined the Department in efforts to implement plans to increase animal disease traceability. The Seminole Tribe of Florida continues to be a partner with DAI in traceability implementation. The Tribe’s large cow-calf operation continues to be a

model for demonstrating the utility of electronic identification and record-keeping as a herd management tool.

The Florida Cattlemen's Association has formed an Animal Disease Traceability Taskforce in conjunction with other stakeholder associations including Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Association of Livestock Markets, Florida Dairy Farmers, and several meat processing businesses. This Taskforce has been the driving force behind the multi-state demonstration project which Florida has participated in with Texas and Kansas. These projects were partially funded by the USDA and have allowed for collection of significant data regarding the use of both Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Low Frequency (LF) identification devices in cattle of various ages and market groups. DAI has also conducted pilot projects with other private ranchers, cattle brokers, and veterinary practitioners. DAI administers an Animal Industry Working Group (AIWG) which advises the Division Director and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services regarding the needs and concerns of Florida's animal industries. ADT is a common topic for AIWG.

DAI is the lead agency for the entire state of Florida regarding ADT efforts in close coordination with our federal partners. DAI personnel enter ADT related data into federal databases which communicate with AHER in accordance with ADT framework.

DAI personnel have access to Animal Disease Traceability Information System (ADTIS) component databases such as Animal Identification Management System (AIMS), SCS Core One, Premises Management, Emergency Management Response System (EMRS), and Data Integration System (DIS). Traceability data is entered into these databases and as needed specific data can be retrieved by DAI or USDA. DAI uses the Trace First, CVI Central application to capture animal movement data and provides data sharing through SCS Core One.

2.2 Where are we now?

Animal Disease Traceability in Florida, as in the US, varies widely between industries and within industries. FDACS, DAI considers ADT to be a part of our mission responsibilities and integrated into most of our animal health activities.

Premises management and management of Official Identification devices occur as stand-alone options or as part of other animal health activities. Applications for Premises Registration and Request for Official Identification Devices are managed through the Cattle Programs Office within DAI. DAI field personnel and program managers coordinate regularly regarding ADT as part of the overall animal health programs implemented as our mission to safeguard Florida's animal agriculture. DAI and USDA counterparts communicate on a regular basis regarding ADT and participate in several working groups to facilitate the advancement of the national ADT framework.

Coordination within DAI and with USDA includes weekly management calls, monthly ADT calls, monthly calls with DAI field personnel and direct calls between Cattle Programs Office and field personnel as well as USDA Animal Identification Coordinator (AIC). Standard Operating Procedures for field activities include messaging processes for all documents related to ADT

program. Quarterly Accomplishment Reports and Compliance & Enforcement Reports are provided to Florida USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) and AIC.

Implementation of the 2014 Florida Cattle Identification Rule, Florida Administrative Code 5C-31, is helping to drive the utilization of Official ID in the cattle sector.

FDACS and DAI continue efforts to protect Florida agriculture as changes and challenges are assessed. Needs and infrastructure must be balanced against budgets and other mandates.

Currently, the success of traces is monitored individually and according to various disease protocols. Coordination within FDACS involves staff on many levels to ensure effective tracing. Coordination between USDA, FDACS, veterinary practitioners, livestock markets, livestock processors, and producers is used to facilitate traces. DAI regularly coordinates with other state agencies such as the Department of Health and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission during disease investigations which may include trace activities. Resources of the FDACS and the Florida Division of Emergency Management are available round-the-clock if warranted.

Databases and files utilized in Florida:

- ADTIS (USDA database) – multiple DAI personnel use these systems regularly
 - o Premises Management – system for the registration of premises for allocation of Premises Identification Numbers (PINs).
 - o SCS Core One – repository of program disease activities such as Brucellosis Vaccination Record, Tuberculosis Test Records and Interstate movement documents.
 - o Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS) – system for capture of distribution of Official Identification Devices.
 - o Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) – allows for verification of veterinary accreditation and offers an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection which is utilized by many Florida veterinarians.
 - o Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) – primary database for animal disease response and portal to the Animal Health Event Repository (AHER) system. We also perform Trace Performance Exercises in this system.
- CVI Central – subscription service is utilized to process Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Those CVIs with Official Identification numbers are migrated into the SCS Core One database. Summary information for livestock species from CVIs without Official ID is also migrated to the SCS Core One database.
- Commerce _ Database utilized by the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement - state database to record Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspections (OCVIs) passing through Florida interdiction stations. This database can be used to flag and screen shipments based on several key criteria.
- Livestock market data is a mixture of paper and electronic files. FDACS is working with markets and software companies to continue procession to electronic transmission of this data. Some markets have progressed with infrastructure and electronic capture while others have been slow to adopt electronic transmission of data.

Traces initiated based on history of animal movement are generally initiated in the AHER system. Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) are maintained in accordance with ADT final rule, 9 CFR 86. Beginning in 2020, all OCIVs are entered through the CVI Central portal which allows searching by date, species, state of origin, state of destination and a category which DAI assigns. The category allows search by whether official identification was available. For OCIVs with official identification, the certificates can message directly to SCS Core One with the individual identification numbers. Individual ID in the SCS Core One system is uploaded to AHER. Commerce database is utilized if there is a time frame for movement of concern. Each Commerce search can be based on species, a time frame and the state of destination/origin. Movement from Approved Livestock Markets in Florida, Alabama and Georgia may be under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) permits issued by inspectors at the markets. These forms are entered into StateVet.com for transmission to databases of the state of destination. Florida's data is moving to SCS Core One.

In Florida, we are fortunate to have a close working relationship with the veterinarians involved in the food animal industries and can contact them for additional specifics requiring inquiries based on a particular shipment as per OCVI records.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Traceability is included as an integral component of animal disease control. Recent initiatives to advance Traceability include:
 - Implementation of the Florida Exhibition rule, Florida Administrative Code, 5C-4, will require all exhibition animals entered in a show to be Officially Identified.
 - Recent efforts to Officially Identify all swine entering Approved Livestock Facilities have been successful. All swine now entering Approved Livestock Facilities are Officially Identified.
 - All samples submitted for USDA Program Diseases are being audited to ensure Official Identification is listed for each animal being tested.
 - Florida Cattle Identification Rule (requires Official ID of adult cattle), Florida Administrative Code 5C-31.
- Increasing utilization of electronic record-keeping systems.
- Staff are capable users of available technology.
- Staff are proficient users of all currently deployed database systems.
- Strong DAI, employing 121 full-time employees.
 - DAI Field Staff
 - DAI Diagnostic Disease Laboratory
- Florida Emergency Management System (Emergency Support Function 17 Component for Animal and Agriculture).
- Florida Agricultural Interdiction System. Mandatory road stops at twenty-three (23) locations with monitoring of health certification and animal identification.
- Food animal veterinarians who work closely with state officials and industry.
- Open and productive dialogue with Industry.
 - Regular engagement with Florida stakeholders including Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Association of Livestock Markets.

- District personnel and program manager work closely with the local administration of Florida Fairs and many other exhibition activities.
- Effective Communications and Outreach Strategies.

Weaknesses:

- Paper-based, labor intensive, tracking systems.
- Some veterinarians, producers, and livestock markets are resistant to electronic identification, documentation, and transmission.
- Fewer personnel for data management.
 - DAI personnel numbers have decreased from 154 full time employees in 2004 to 121 full time employees including the loss of at least six personnel engaged in data entry related to ADT program.
 - Both DAI and USDA have decreased the number of data entry personnel during organizational shrinkages over the past 5 years.
 - Since 2015, DAI is responsible for a majority of data entry into federal databases.
- Shrinking State and Federal budgets.
- Florida “Sunshine Law” which allows public access to state held information. In order to protect producer’s privacy, the DAI does not plan to become a manager of individual animal identification numbers or trade information. Florida will continue to rely on USDA to house animal ID data.
- Variations in regulations between states continues to cause confusion for veterinarians and producers.
- Exemptions to 9 CFR 86 and Cattle Identification Rules and the allowances for official identification after animals enter commerce have made enforcement difficult and compliance issues are labor intensive.
- Lack of traceability of animals consigned to Recognized Slaughter Facilities.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Continued efforts to implement both the USDA Animal Traceability Rule and the Florida Cattle Identification Rule will move traceability forward in coming years. A comprehensive state emergency management plan includes provisions to support agricultural officials in responding to animal disease challenges.

The challenge and threat of animal disease increase incrementally as the movement of humans, livestock and animal products domestically and internationally increases. Florida has 21 international ports of entry. Increasing trade of animals and animal products, and a suitable climate for foreign animal diseases and pests, makes Florida more vulnerable to the introduction of devastating diseases of livestock and poultry.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The DAI has the capability to implement animal disease traceability as part of an overarching plan to protect the consumers and producers of livestock from devastation caused by animal disease. Connectivity to the full Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as well as other agencies, broadens the scope of potential assistance. Subscription services to facilitate capture of

data in databases are essential to animal disease traceability. Access to USDA resources remains a critical factor in the eventual success of such programs.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry's vision statement is: To be the most effective and innovative animal health authority in the United States.

The DAI is the lead state agency serving to protect the health and welfare of Florida's livestock and poultry, support the productivity and marketability of Florida's animal industries, and enhance the availability and safety of our food supply. Traceability plays an integral part in disease prevention, surveillance, and control and, thus, is an essential component of the DAI responsibilities to safeguard both animal and public health.

3.2 Mission Statement

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry's mission is to safeguard Florida's agriculture and the public through animal disease control and emergency response.

The mission of the DAI is to prevent, control, and eradicate infectious and communicable diseases of livestock and domestic animals by working with partners and stakeholders to ensure compliance with state animal health programs and regulations. The mission includes emergency support in responding to man-made or natural disasters affecting animals. Identification and traceability play a key role in successfully carrying out this mission.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

Florida supports the overarching goal of the comprehensive national system of animal disease traceability.

1. Enhance electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry; including sharing basic ADT data with the AHER.
 - a. Utilization of federal databases which connect with AHER.
 - b. Capture of movement data via CVI Central subscription.
2. Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient.
 - a. Facilitate the distribution of RFID devices to eligible producers for use in replacement cattle and those moving interstate.
 - b. Encouraging veterinarians to apply electronic identification and capture program activities in electronic documents.
3. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
4. Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State Animal Health Officials.

FDACS activities funded by Federal funding is specifically focused on the distribution of electronic devices, education of producers and veterinarians and facilitation of electronic transmission of data.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

Florida will continue to move forward with Animal Disease Traceability through enforcement of current regulations, producer outreach and education, and working with industry. We will continue to collaborate with industry stakeholders and federal partners to enhance traceability.

- Enhance tag distribution and record-keeping system(s).
- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms.
- Develop state policy in support of federal rule(s) pertaining to traceability.
- Monitor OCVI usage and data quality.
- Capture available animal movement data into appropriate systems.
- Improve retrieval capabilities of available traceability information.
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed.
- Integrate surveillance and traceability data.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

Florida performs TPMs in the EMRS system in accordance with USDA Traceability Program as Priority Trace Exercises. Multiple personnel in the DAI Cattle Programs office are trained in utilizing DIS and EMRS to accomplish these TPMs.

4.4 Data requirements

Animal disease traceability data are acquired through various program activities. Storage, retrieval and utilization will continue to be by a multi-faceted approach. Efforts will continue to make data searchable in the most efficient manner possible. Electronic means are merging with paper-based systems. Existing information will be integrated into any developing animal disease traceability information system. Increasing human resources will be critical in advancing data entry and data management.

- Premises Identification Numbers – issued and maintained in the USDA Premises Management System.
- The current Florida Cattle Identification Rule accepts official animal identification as prescribed by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and references CFR in state regulations.
- Florida will expand the utilization of official animal identification devices beyond the current system and on a voluntary basis with producers and practitioners. DAI is assisting veterinary practitioners in becoming AIN managers to increase access to electronic devices for small producers. District personnel continue to facilitate distribution of official identification devices for those involved in exhibition activities.
- Tag distribution is a collaborative effort. Distribution is captured in the AIMS. State and federal personnel assist in local distribution activities.

- VS Memo 578.12 will serve as a guideline for tag distribution. Florida utilizes official forms for data collection related to tag distribution.
- Utilization of NUES and electronic tags has increased dramatically with the implementation of state and federal requirements for official identification. Since November of 2024, all distributions have been electronically readable RFID and extensive outreach has been occurring to facilitate increased utilization.
- Record-keeping is a core component to all official tag systems. Tags will be assigned to an official premises/premises owner. The veterinarian or livestock owner applying the tags will be responsible for timely submission of accurate and complete records of tag utilization.
- Florida recognizes the need for, and supports, all efforts to move towards more efficient storage and retrieval of animal disease traceability information.
- Data will be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA through USDA and other databases. Current protocol will extend to traceability programs.
- In addition to OCVIs, Florida Form DACS-09158 may be issued by state personnel to permit the movement of cattle to Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama from specifically approved Livestock Markets through state-to-state agreements.
- USDA Form, VS 1-27 is a permit for movement of restricted animals which can include interstate movement.
- Group/lot official numbers will be handled as prescribed by USDA, VS.
- Florida utilizes the USDA numbering system and does not have a system to assign state identification numbers to livestock or premise.

4.5 Information technology plan

Florida recognizes the need for, and supports, efforts to move towards more efficient storage and retrieval of animal disease traceability information. All livestock and equine CVIs are uploaded into the searchable database through the CVI Central application.

DAI will continue efforts to encourage the use of VSPS or private compliant vendors of eCVIs by food animal and equine veterinarians. It is important that USDA provide vital enhancements to this system and help-desk support. Providing this no-charge option to veterinarians can be an important component of a traceability plan. DAI continues to assist the ADT Modernization processes by participating in working groups and beta testing of IT systems.

4.6 Resource requirements

Animal disease traceability data are acquired through various program activities. Storage, retrieval, and utilization will continue to be by a multifaceted approach. Efforts will continue to make data searchable in the most efficient manner possible. This system will be integrated into any developing animal disease traceability information system. The shortage of human resources restricts progress of data management.

- Current DAI staff has specific expertise to implement traceability.
- Additional data management staff may be necessary to record, process, and track large volumes of animal movement data.

- Automated data capture equipment is available in limited supply currently. Additional equipment will help to facilitate further adoption by veterinary practitioners and producers. DAI is working with accredited veterinarians to facilitate the engagement of these practitioners as Animal Identification Managers and providing RFID wands to those who participate.
- DAI has a Continuity of Operations Plan in place. This statewide plan is updated and tested annually as part of the state government’s emergency operations plan.

4.7 Organizational needs

4.7.1 Executive support

Florida’s State Veterinarian and Division Director of the Division of Animal Industry is fully supportive of the development of an animal disease traceability system. Other officials, including Florida’s Commissioner of Agriculture, are briefed orally and provided documentation on program status and progress. The Division Director and Commissioner are involved in meetings and discussions with affected industry.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Internal program oversight is under the direction of Florida’s State Veterinarian and Director of the Division of Animal Industry.

External program oversight and guidance is primarily through the industry associations and working groups with direct communication to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Director of the Division of Animal Industry.

DAI participates in quarterly meetings with the Florida Cattlemen’s Association. DAI attends advisory meetings with the Florida Farm Bureau at least twice a year. DAI provides an annual veterinary medical conference which focuses on food animal practice. ADT programs are a highlighted topic for this meeting, and the venue allows for extensive feedback from practitioners.

Florida has a well-defined process for formal feedback or arbitration on all FDACS activities and regulations.

4.7.3 Policy

Florida has broad freedom of information legislation known as the “Sunshine Law.” The information which is required to register any premises is basic and not normally considered proprietary. Most producers would prefer that individual animal identification and destination data be considered proprietary information. In order to protect producer’s privacy, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, does not plan to become a manager of individual animal identification numbers or trade information.

Florida Statutes, Chapter 119.07 - Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions.

119.07 (1)(a) Every person who has custody of a public record shall permit the record to be inspected and copied by any person desiring to do so, at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision by the custodian of the public records.

Florida Cattle Identification Rule (Chapter 5C-31, F. A. C.) requires Official Identification of adult cattle (18 months and older) moving within Florida with limited exceptions, including:

- Direct to slaughter movements.
- Movements to an Approved Tagging Site.
- Movement between premises under common ownership with no commingling as part of normal ranching management

4.7.4 Staffing

Existing DAI and USDA, APHIS, VS staff are currently utilized for implementing animal disease traceability. DAI staff at all levels supports traceability as a core component of the Division's overall mission. Traceability is included as part of many activities of the Division. In addition, key staff members are identified as traceability program team. Additional DAI and USDA staff would be needed to increase the scale of operations to include more data capture and data management and an increase in services provided.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

The DAI is funded primarily through general revenue dollars with no funding designated specifically for traceability. Only programs that are supported by fee-generated revenue are guaranteed to be funded. Cost-sharing is achieved via the use of general revenue monies. Existing funding will be utilized in support of traceability programs to the extent that funds are available. Much of the current work that is carried out for disease prevention and control involves traceability activities.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 *Accredited veterinarians*

DAI leverages multiple opportunities to provide information to accredited veterinarians. DAI and the Florida Veterinary Medical Association coordinate a continuing education conference which includes animal disease traceability and other program disease activities related to traceability as a key component.

One on one communication with veterinarians is another opportunity to stress resources and important requirements of state and federal programs. Assistance with adoption of electronic document submission is generally occurring in individual interactions with veterinarians.

Distribution of the “no charge” RFID for use in replacement heifers has been a valuable tool to educate accredited veterinarians and to encourage some to become AIN Managers. Program activities such as Brucellosis Vaccination have also served as an opening to educate veterinarians about electronic data transfer and capture.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

As part of the Traceability Taskforce Pilot Projects, two Florida slaughter facilities have installed infrastructure to facilitate the capture of electronic identification. Current projects include collection of data from both low and ultra-high frequency technologies.

Tag retirement at time of slaughter has been a struggle. Although infrastructure is in place at facilities, capture and transmission of information has been inconsistent. Due to the small number of RFID devices, it has not been a priority of facilities to capture the data. The lack of mandates or financial incentives to stimulate capture and transfer of data will make this a slow process. Slaughter facilities are not motivated to pay personnel time or server costs to facilitate the transmission of this data into federal system. The pilot project demonstrated the readability and retention of a variety of RFID devices utilized in the identification of cattle moving to slaughter channels in multiple facilities.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

General outreach will continue to the extent possible through media and participation in producer meetings. DAI team is involved with all types of producer groups of all types from various food animals, equine and poultry species. Staff are also in contact throughout the year with participants in numerous livestock shows, exhibitions and sales. These venues offer excellent outreach opportunities to a wide range of livestock owners.

The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is a major outreach partner in that information can be shared through their Cooperative Extension offices in every county. Outreach and education efforts also include the constituents of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Livestock market owners represent the needs of their customers who may not personally participate in meetings of the Traceability Group. These market customers will include producers of all sizes and interests.

Industry has not been quick to recognize the need for the larger ADT program of birth to slaughter as insurance in case of a nebulous outbreak. Industry is looking for incentives to justify “buy in” to benefits of electronic identification and capture/transfer of data. Value added programs can be a motivation for industry to adopt this technology and see tangible benefits.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Florida's record-keeping of interstate movements is greatly enhanced by our system of Agricultural Interdiction Stations which closely monitor interstate commerce. The CVI Central subscription provides an excellent platform for data sharing and capturing. This system has strong search options and facilitates capture of data statistics.

The FDACS Monthly and Annual Reports show:

- Number of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and other interstate movement documents for movement into Florida.
- Number of Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and other interstate movement documents for movement out of Florida.
- Numbers of animals by species and class for all interstate movements.
- Interstate Certificates of Veterinary inspection are searchable by several parameters including:
 - o Species
 - o State of origin and destination
 - o Date issued
 - o Indicator of whether official ID is included
- Volume and distribution of official identification devices is monitored and recorded in a USDA database (AINMs).
- Data for all program disease work shows the numbers of traces initiated and the numbers of successful traces.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Maintain Current Animal Disease Traceability Infrastructure.
 - o Continue Premises Identification and Registration.
 - o Assist stakeholders in obtaining Official identification.
- Enhance Current Traceability Capability.
 - o Assist transition of accredited veterinarians to electronic data capture and transfer.
 - o Migrate paper and share drive files into searchable databases.
- Optimize the Acquisition and Search Capability of Animal Disease Traceability Data.
 - o Capture distribution and utilization of official identification.
 - o Maintain animal movement data in a searchable database.
- Implement an outreach plan.
 - o Continuing industry outreach and involvement through all possible means.
- Further Refine Tracing Capabilities and Procedures.
 - o Increase the utilization of official identification in Florida livestock.
 - o Prepare livestock producers, markets, and shippers to meet future interstate movement requirements and to better ensure traceability.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Objective 1 – Maintain Current Animal Disease Traceability Infrastructure.

Four core components of Florida's Traceability program are identified:

1. Premises Registration
 - Continue Premises Registration in federal database.
 - Maintain and Update data in Premises Management system.
 - Register additional premises through all means available.
 - Specific efforts to regularly confirm information is current.

2. Implementation of the Florida Cattle Identification Rule.
 - Producer Education to facilitate compliance.
 - Enforcement of the Rule.
 - Assist producers in obtaining Official ID devices.

3. Increase search capability for existing records.
 - Encourage utilization of electronic data collection and storage.
 - Process paper documents in CVI Central to provide searchability.

4. Increase Individual Animal Identification in Florida Livestock.
 - Ensure that records are maintained for all tags distributed.
 - Network with owners of captured individual animal movement data.
 - Encourage the utilization of electronic identification devices for official identification.

Objective 2 – Enhance Current Traceability Capability.

Florida has documented effective response in foreign or program animal disease traceability. Examples of past challenges include Equine Herpes Virus, Contagious Equine Metritis, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Equine Infectious Anemia, Pseudorabies, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in sport cattle, Bovine TB in a large dairy herd, and traces of market cattle reactors.

Time required for response to traces depends on level of priority for each case. Florida has proven its ability to respond rapidly when circumstances warrant. Efforts are more focused on completeness and attention to detail than on speed.

The FDACS Annual Report records foreign animal disease traces for all program disease work. This data shows the numbers of traces initiated and the numbers of successful traces. These cases are entered into the EMRS.

Under cooperative agreements, Florida has established a distribution methodology and record capture system for official tags. Participation by producers and veterinarians has increased significantly since official identification for movement is required. Distribution of RFID tags at no cost to the producer requires additional resources for tag distribution and record-keeping.

DAI continues to explore mechanisms to facilitate electronic transmission of more traceability data and migration to databases which connect to the AHER system.

Objective 3 – Optimize the Acquisition and Search Capability of Animal Disease Traceability Data.

Florida has increased efforts to enhance electronic accessibility of traceability data associated with program disease work. Florida continues to support standardized traceability data entry of animal movement data into electronically searchable format. Florida continues to work with USDA to develop an automated system which specifically addresses animal disease traceability, including working with USDA ADT leads on various modernization projects and serve as beta testers for these new systems. Florida will monitor compliance with federal requirements.

Test records for program disease work are recorded in the USDA databases which can be searched electronically. Florida is a consistent and successful user of these systems. This information can be searched to determine numbers of cases and numbers of animals. Implementation of CVI Central system, which does allow for the entry of movement data, provides a means for data capture that can be critical to successful traceability.

Efforts will be made to increase the utilization of Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) for electronic certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVI) and to facilitate the utilization of electronic database by practitioners. Other eCVI options are also shared with practitioners and utilization of eCVI has slowly increased. This will continue to require one-on-one assistance at the offices of practitioners who are involved in the interstate movement of livestock. Adoption of the electronic OCVI systems by veterinary practitioners has been slowly progressing. Many practitioners have expressed interest, but they require IT assistance and incentives to make investments in this technology. Increases have been incremental, and this program will require continued effort to help veterinary practitioners be successful in using the system. Currently over 90% of the livestock OCVIs generated by Florida veterinarians are in an electronic format.

Objective 4 – Implement an Outreach Plan to Include Accredited Veterinarians, Livestock Producers, Livestock Markets, and Producers of all Sectors.

Outreach will continue to explain USDA traceability rule and state actions to help producers meet traceability requirements.

Efforts focus on outreach to make producers aware of the requirements for Official Identification. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to maintain a premises registration database. Additional emphasis will be placed on outreach and education to enable livestock producers to meet traceability requirements for implementation of state and federal regulations.

Outreach to and through USDA Accredited Veterinarians will foster understanding of traceability by veterinarians and equip them to be animal identification resources for their customers. Program managers will be involved in training practitioners and their technicians in utilization of the VSPS. This will include training and incentives to have data entry of OCVI information through eCVI data entry for shipments with inclusion of official identification.

Outreach will include training of FDACS Agricultural Law Enforcement personnel at the FDACS Interdiction Stations to capture entry and export data. Improvements to the technology available at Interdiction Stations will improve the percentage of information captured.

Information is being provided to producers about identification methods which meet the requirements for official ID. Tags have been manufactured and recorded through an approved AIN manager to ensure data capture of correlated producer premises identification numbers and assigned tag numbers.

General outreach will continue to the extent possible with allowances for changes in state DAI budget and Federal Cooperative Agreement funding. Priorities will include maintenance of premises identification infrastructure, premises renewals, and providing timely and accurate information to all stakeholders.

Outreach will include initiatives to encourage producers who have previously registered their premises to update their premises records as needed. DAI will continue to engage producers and industry stakeholders to seek feedback for improving traceability.