

2026 Roadmap Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Montana

A Three-Year Plan

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Date: 03/23/2026

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This three-year plan delineates how the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) plans to improve and advance animal disease traceability with supplemental funding from USDA.

With over two million head of cattle, beef production is one of the largest industries in Montana. Furthermore, our state's cattle genetics are sold to countries as far away as Russia and Argentina. Montana is home to many bison producers, including family ranches and large businesses. Along with Idaho and Wyoming, Montana borders the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA), leading to a heightened risk of exposure to brucellosis from infected elk and wild bison. To keep cattle and bison production in Montana safe, all sexually intact cattle and bison coming from the Montana Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) must be tested for brucellosis prior to movement outside the DSA. Furthermore, Montana requires mandatory brucellosis vaccination of breeding cattle and domestic bison in ten counties surrounding Montana's DSA. Our comprehensive brucellosis surveillance program relies on accurate traceability creating an enhanced need for electronic animal identification and electronic data capture.

- **What is the fundamental problem(s) this plan addresses?** As a net cattle export state, an animal disease outbreak and subsequent stop movement order would be economically devastating. To minimize the negative effects of a disease investigation, a fast and reliable animal traceability system is vital. MDOL plans to improve animal disease traceability by encouraging electronic capture of radio frequency identification (RFID) data to increase electronic records and reporting. By advocating for consistency and compatibility of electronic systems, MDOL can better streamline data management.
- **What are the key elements in summary form?**
 - Improve contact with and education of industry and accredited veterinarians on animal disease traceability (ADT) rules.
 - Transition from USAHERDS to CoreOne to allow better transfer of data from MDOL to USDA/APHIS.
 - Continue to explore electronic data capture systems for official disease work, including testing, vaccination, and issuance of certificates of veterinary inspection.
 - Expand infrastructure for Montana veterinarians by providing reimbursement for official identification (ID) devices and necessary hardware to facilitate the generation and capture of electronic traceability data.
 - Provide veterinarian outreach, training, and support for electronic traceability adoption.
- **What are the primary benefits?**
 - Fast and reliable retrieval of animal IDs in response to animal health and regulatory compliance investigations.
 - Decreased response time and increased accuracy of animal disease trace situations.

- Increase confidence in industry and accredited veterinarians on the electronic capture of data.
- **How does this plan build upon previous efforts to advance ADT?** Montana has been making steady advancements in traceability technology starting with the mandate for electronic export certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs). MDOL is focusing on improving data entry and retrieval speed and efficiency by transitioning to CoreOne software. MDOL will also continue to encourage and support producers, markets and veterinarians to adopt new traceability technologies and increase the amount of traceability data captured electronically.
- **How does this plan fit within USDA’s new framework for ADT?** The traceability goals for Montana align with the overarching goals outlined by the USDA. This plan highlights increased electronic tag use, enhancement of the ability to track animals through MDOL software systems, advancement of electronic sharing of traceability data by transitioning to the CoreOne system, and commitment to working toward a system where all CVIs are electronically transmitted between veterinarians and MDOL.
- **How does this plan support animal health information systems within the State, Tribe, or Territory?** Along with using USAHerds and CoreOne for animal health data, MDOL will continue to rely upon our Brands Enforcement Program to trace animals within Montana. This is accomplished through several avenues. Brand inspections conducted in the field, online, and at livestock markets are critical to traceability in Montana. Brand inspections conducted at Montana livestock markets are currently entered real-time into a brand software program that reconciles buyers and sellers and allows MDOL to query brand records for animal health purposes. Brand inspectors capture animal health information, at the time of inspection. This allows more effective traceback of animals that have moved through livestock markets in Montana and will also allow more detailed information to be captured on specific groups of animals. For example, animals that originate from the Brucellosis DSA can be checked individually using official individual identification versus lot check-in under a registered brand. This will benefit both official disease programs as well as state-based programs. Field inspection data are also entered into the same software program by office staff as they are received.
- **How does this plan support animal health information with other States, Tribes, Territories and USDA nationally?** MDOL and Montana USDA-APHIS-VS are working together to ensure that the maximum amount of data can be efficiently captured without duplication between the two offices. The transition from USAHERDS to CoreOne is the first step to accomplish better efficiency in data sharing. MDOL will continue to work with USDA on enforcement of traceability requirements. This will include reviewing traceability data and sharing potential violations with USDA. MDOL monitors imports and exports of livestock and other animals into and out of the state of Montana on interstate ICVIs (ICVIs). On average, over 38,500 ICVIs are checked for compliance by MDOL staff each fiscal year. MDOL tracks alleged veterinary noncompliance by veterinarian, type of compliance concern, and

numbers of alleged violations. This allows targeted communication with veterinarians to improve compliance.

- **What alternatives were explored?** MDOL looked at several online databases before deciding to transition to CoreOne. The decision was based on ease of use and the ability for the system to integrate seamlessly with USDA systems. MDOL has also researched different RFID readers to offer on loan to accredited veterinarians and different electronic CVI platforms to better serve our veterinarians.
- **What are the projected costs and benefits for the first, second and third years of the plan?** The total projected cost for this plan is \$297,642 which will be spread evenly across all three years. Most of the costs are associated with getting veterinarians up to speed with electronic data capture. Getting more accredited veterinarians proficient in electronic record keeping will result in more accurate and rapid traceability.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

Animal disease traceability in Montana is the responsibility of MDOL and USDA-APHIS-VS. Within MDOL, the animal health and brand divisions contribute to traceability. This includes four veterinarians, six compliance support staff, two animal health investigative officers, 16 Brands investigative district officers, and staff within our state's 12 livestock markets.

Montana has seven Native American reservations, 12 privately owned livestock markets, 500+ accredited veterinarians, 16 approved official tagging sites (including most of our livestock markets), and numerous active producer and industry organizations that all contribute to the success of Montana's industry. While formal agreements with our reservations are not in place, the historical practice has been adoption of our state traceability program by default.

The traceability information collected and processed by Montana is used internally for tracing animal movement, confirming ownership, and disease management. Upon request the state of Montana can distribute information to USDA, to National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), to Montana legislators, and to fulfill public information requests.

Our state traceability program is primarily guided by federal ADT regulations with refinement by state specific traceability needs due to the nature of our industry. Because Montana is a net-exporting state that is primarily cow-calf, requirements for the importation of cattle into Montana exceed federal requirements. Additionally, due to the presence of a wildlife reservoir of *Brucella abortus* in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Montana has

a state brucellosis program that includes traceability requirements that also exceed federal requirements.

Montana does not currently have an ADT advisory group. This group was sunset approximately 12 years ago. The membership at the time was state and federal officials with representatives from Montana's various livestock industries. Because ADT policy has been relatively static in Montana, an ongoing need for the group was not identified. The executive leadership of the Montana Department of Livestock is a seven-member board appointed by the Governor. Board members must be livestock producers within the state. The Board largely fulfills the role of an ADT advisory group.

2.2 Where are we now?

As a vital component of MDOL's mission to protect and foster the livestock industry in Montana, traceability safeguards both livestock and public health. By recording and tracking official ID tags, MDOL enhances our ability to swiftly respond to disease outbreaks, to mitigate the risk of disease spread, and to conduct disease surveillance and control. This approach strengthens Montana's livestock industry by minimizing the scope of disease investigations and by limiting the further spread of death, effectively reducing the impact of disease investigations to individual producers.

By prioritizing the capture of official ID tags into the USAHERDS traceability system, MDOL remains committed to upholding the highest standards of livestock management and traceability in Montana. Currently on average, MDOL staff enter over 650,000 ID tags by hand into USAHERDS every year, making traceability a cross-cutting component to all our animal health disease programs. Additionally, MDOL has a brands market program in place that electronically records change of ownership at Montana livestock markets. This software allows for animals inspected at the market to have additional information recorded including official identification and allows MDOL to create flags for certain classes of animal by registered brand.

The state of Montana's technology infrastructure has several planned and anticipated improvements on the horizon. Currently, a large volume of traceability data, including premises, ICVI, brucellosis vaccination data and state-disease program data, is contained within USAHERDS. Traceability data can be manually entered into USAHERDS when provided to MDOL from outside sources. Data can also be exported out of USAHERDS for dissemination to necessary agencies and officials. The program is available 24/7 to state animal health and brands officials. Official disease work including brucellosis test data and tuberculosis test data are entered and held in the USDA APHIS VS's CoreOne system. Additional brucellosis test data is contained within our agency's laboratory software VADDS.

Federal ADT funding is a critical supplement to the current successes of our state animal disease traceability program. Through offsetting the cost of traceability infrastructure for Montana veterinarians, offsetting the cost of USAHERDS system, and offsetting the cost of software for Montana livestock markets, the gains made through this funding are evident as Montana continues to see improvements in our ability to trace animals accurately and quickly.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

The primary strengths of Montana's traceability program are our state laws and regulations supporting our animal health and brand inspection programs, our investments in software programs to support the work we do, and the substantial buy-in from our livestock industries of the need for an effective animal disease traceability system within Montana.

This allowed MDOL to implement a requirement in 2020 for all animals leaving the state to travel on an electronic health certificate. This policy has allowed the Animal Health Bureau (AHB) to streamline data management, increase efficiency, and enhance accuracy in tracking animal movements on health records. This commitment not only reduces paperwork but also strengthens the ability to respond swiftly to disease outbreaks, protect animal health, and support seamless interstate and international trade. Overall, this shift exemplifies a proactive approach towards modernization, ensuring a more resilient and effective veterinary practice. This transition resulted in a 55% decrease in the number of paper CVIs issued in the first year. In FY21, 3,995 paper CVIs were issued. From FY21 to FY22, there was over an 89% decrease in the use of paper health certificates, and from FY22 to FY23 there was an additional 83% decrease in the use of paper health certificates. Currently, Montana has an over 99% adoption rate of electronic ICVIs by its Montana veterinarians. Montana Veterinarians' decrease in paper CVIs in just a few short years showcases their dedication to embracing technology and advancing animal disease traceability in their industry.

The weaknesses of Montana's traceability program are the small number of personnel in the department, the limited funding sources that are available for the advancement of traceability, the inability of federal systems (e.g. EMRS2) to communicate with state systems, and the resistance among some segments of industry against a federal or state-driven traceability system.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

The opportunities created by this plan include the strengthening of our state's brucellosis program, the ability to accurately trace exposed animals

when investigating diseases, to reduce the scope of disease investigations, and to strengthen our trading partner confidence in the disease-free status of Montana origin livestock.

Threats faced by Montana include non-compliance with traceability regulations and MDOL's limited ability to enforce regulations across the expansive geography of Montana, a large-scale disease outbreak, further detections of bovine tuberculosis, and other catastrophic events. Additionally, the misperception of the intent of a state and/or federal traceability program may result in the program being undermined by state regulations and policies. Finally, confidentiality of traceability data is of substantial concern to many livestock producers and Montana does not have these protections in state law. Without this plan there is no other state agency tasked with the protection of our state livestock industry, so it is unlikely that these tasks will be accomplished.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

- **Human resources:** The Animal Health Bureau employs 4 veterinarians, 6 compliance support staff, and 2 animal health investigative officers. Additionally, the Brand Enforcement Division includes 16 Brands district investigators and 12 livestock markets personnel, all who contribute to traceability in Montana.
- **Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field:** USAHERDS, CoreOne, VADDS, Service Now (brand software), MIMS personal digital assistant (PDA), and numerous federal databases.
- **Access to USDA ADT and animal health information resources:** MDOL's access to data lookup has significantly improved with most veterinary and import office staff having access to key USDA data systems.
- **Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access ADT or animal health information:** Paper records include CVIs, official test charts, and vaccination certificates. Paper records are managed through both in-house storage and digital integration within USAHERDS. MDOL follows a retention schedule for all records, with most being destroyed after 10 years, when given approval. Brand inspection data is also maintained in-house and integrated into digital storage where applicable.
- **Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.** Over 99% of CVIs written for animals exported from Montana are now electronic and captured automatically using CoreOne and CVI Central. Additional electronic data capture is primarily occurring in and around Montana's Designated Surveillance Area for brucellosis, but Montana has recently seen an increase in use at livestock markets

and by veterinarians outside Montana's DSA. Brand inspection data for animals sold through a Montana livestock market is entered electronically and is immediately searchable. Inspections conducted in the country are entered into the brands software program as they are received with a usual 4–6-month lag in paper-based inspections being electronically searchable.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Animal Health Bureau is responsible for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases. This involves safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock and poultry and preventing the transmission of animal diseases to people. The prevention and control of domestic animal diseases are achieved through four major areas of activity: Import/Export, Disease Control, Alternative Livestock, and Field Operations. Traceability in Montana is integral in the implementation of these areas.

3.2 Mission Statement

The Animal Health Bureau is responsible for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases. This involves safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock and poultry and preventing the transmission of animal diseases to people. The prevention and control of domestic animal diseases are achieved through four major areas of activity: Import/Export, Disease Control, Alternative Livestock, and Field Operations. Traceability in Montana is integral in the implementation of these areas.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

Montana Department of Livestock's strategic goal is to establish a statewide framework for electronic capture and reporting to advance animal disease traceability standards that meet or exceed federal requirements. MDOL will continue to apply the following USDA strategic goals to create a timely and precise ADT system.

1. Enhance electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry; including sharing basic ADT data with the Federal Animal Health Events Repository (AHER);
2. Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification to make the transmission of data more efficient.
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.
 - Entities must develop or implement a State-wide, Tribal-wide, or Territory-wide infrastructure for advancing ADT compatible with State, Tribe, Territory and USDA standards.
 - If other goals exist that are important and relevant, they should be added.]

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

- Improve communication of USAHerds/CoreOne with AHER.
- Support the purchase of hardware for capturing traceability data electronically.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

If the animal in question has any form of official identification in its ear, reporting to the state of official tagging will be nearly instantaneous. Bangs tags and metal Brite tags with state codes allow instant identification of the state of tagging. AINMS, which stores 840 tag data, is a web-based system and is available 24/7 so the lookup of a tag can occur during non-business hours. MDOL expects to report to the State/Tribe of official tagging within 8 hours 70% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework.

Once it has been established that an animal was tagged in or originated from Montana, traceback within the state is the next step. This also should be accomplished within 24 hours 70% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework. Multiple systems exist at this level to allow verification of tag distribution and identification of the point at which the animal was first tagged (i.e. livestock market):

USDA Brucellosis Vaccination Tag: Brucellosis vaccination metal tags were traditionally distributed to accredited veterinarians in Montana and a spreadsheet is maintained of this tag distribution. The spreadsheet includes the name of veterinarian, range of tags, and date distributed. Any animals tagged prior to November 5th, 2024, with metal tags will still be easily tracked through our system. When an accredited veterinarian in Montana submits their vaccination certificates to MDOL, the tags that are allocated to a producer are entered into USAHerds. USAHerds can be queried by tag number and all activities associated with that tag can be located, including veterinarian and owner information.

Animals moved across state lines that have grandfathered metal Bangs tags in place are traceable back to Montana. Within Montana, the animals can be traced in several ways.

USAHerds/CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work that was performed in Montana using the Bangs tag number or RFID as official ID. If the vaccination certificate is not reported to MDOL/USDA, the tag would not be recorded in USAHerds/CoreOne. The tag can be traced back to the accredited veterinarian who applied the tag. If the animal is branded, we can additionally use brand records to trace the animal.

USDA Silver Metal Tag: Silver Metal tags were distributed to accredited veterinarians for use as official identification in animals prior to 11/05/2024. A spreadsheet is maintained of tag distribution that includes name of veterinarian, range of tags, and date distributed. With the change of official tags to 840 RFID, only animals tagged prior to 11/05/2024 will have metal tags.

When a silver metal tag was placed in an animal, the accredited veterinarian who placed the tag was expected to keep a record of what animal received the tag. Unless the tag was used as official identification for part of official disease work, the tag was not entered into USAHerds.

Producers that require official identification of their animals for interstate movement must pay an accredited veterinarian for their time and for the application of the tags. By allowing tags to be applied by a producer, the financial burden on the producer and the time constraint for accredited veterinarians is alleviated. MDOL, in conjunction with USDA-APHIS-VS, distributed metal tags to producers who have either a PIN or a LID. Tag distribution is recorded in a spreadsheet. Animals moved across state lines that have USDA silver metal tags in place are traceable back to Montana. Within Montana, the animals can be traced in several ways. First, the tag can be traced back to the accredited veterinarian who applied the tag. Second, USAHerds/CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work that was performed in Montana using the silver metal tag number as official ID prior to 11/05/2024. If the silver metal tag has not been used in official disease work, or if the information has not been reported to MDOL/USDA, the tag would not be recorded in USAHerds.

840 RFID tags are allocated directly to producers who have a national premises ID. The tags are associated to the national premises ID number in the AIN Management System. Additionally, if the tag is used as official ID for official disease work, the tag number is entered in USAHerds/CoreOne along with the national premises ID.

Animals moved across state lines that have an 840 tag in place are traceable back to Montana. The animals can be traced in one of several ways. First, the AIN Management System can be queried to locate the premises of origin or the point of first tagging. Second, USAHerds/CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work, if any that was performed in Montana using the 840 RFID tag number as official ID.

Back tags are applied to cattle at Montana livestock markets. If the back tag is captured on a back-tagging report, an official test chart at market or is collected at the time of slaughter, the data can be used to identify the consignor of the animal to market.

For MDOL to identify the state the animal originated from prior to import into Montana, query of USAHerds/CoreOne is necessary. The import system can be queried based upon date, species, and consignee. Once a list of imports is identified that meet the criteria of the query, CVIs must be searched to identify the movement of the animal in question. With the adoption of the new animal health computer system, MDOL can scan all CVI's and associate them with the generated import permit to allow electronic viewing of documents. MDOL expects to report to the State/Tribe from which an animal moved within 2 business days 70% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework.

Traceback to the birth premises, the point of first tagging within Montana, or the location from which an animal was exported from Montana should be achievable within 5 days 70% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified. This is accomplished by: USAHerds/CoreOne can be queried to see if the animal has been involved in official disease work and reported to MDOL and USDA APHIS VS. CoreOne will provide information about the activity, date, and producer or ranch for whom the work was performed. If the animal in question has an 840 tag, the AINMS can be queried. The AINMS will provide a tag history that will include point of first tagging and any events that have been subsequently reported to the system. If the animal in question has a Bangs tag or a metal Brite tag, the accredited veterinarian that the tag was initially distributed to can be identified. If the animal in question has a back tag, this information can be used to track movement of the animal from a livestock market. Market back tagging records, brand inspections and market clearance forms can be used to identify consignee and consignor of the animal at sale. If a brand is present on the animal in question, the brand and location of the brand can be used to locate the person to whom the brand is registered. All this traceability data can be used to locate the CVI issued for the interstate movement of the animal in question and to identify the location in Montana from which the animal was exported.

4.4 Data requirements

- Montana issues two forms of location identifiers: federal premises identification numbers (PIN) and state location identifiers (LID). Using our state-based animal health computer system USAHerds, MDOL can assign both formats. MDOL defers to the use of LIDs unless a requesting producer specifically requests a PIN.
- Official animal identification in Montana includes the use of 840 identification devices (RFID and visual). The most recent communication with tribes in Montana suggests that all tribes will adopt similar identification standards. 840 RFID tags will be allocated directly to registered premises either through official disease work performed by my MDOL or USDA-APHIS-VS, through third party process verified programs (PVPs) performing age and source verification, or directly to the registered premises from the manufacturer. All tag data will be available in the AINMS. Tag distribution to accredited veterinarians is tracked by USDA-APHIS-VS. Tag distribution to producers is tracked through allocation to a LID in USAHerds.
- Producers in the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) have increased identification requirements for animals leaving the DSA. Montana producers are required to apply official identification to all cattle and bison leaving the DSA. With the implementation of the ADT Final Rule, 840 RFID tags are in high demand. To help offset the demand, DSA producers are allowed to apply metal NUES tags to heifers less than 12 mos. of age going into feeding channels. These animals are not Bangs vaccinated, therefore, they do not require official ID. The use of metal tags is meant to allow for more uniform traceability.
- MDOL will continue to educate and foster the use of electronic formats of CVIs for the interstate movement of animals. MDOL will expect that all participating entities comply with the .XML data standards developed by the United States Animal Health Association working group.

4.5 Information technology plan

[This section is to be devoted to specifying the IT needs as projected for the first, second and third years of the plan. A plan should be provided describing how the needs would best be addressed using State, Tribe, Territory and Federal resources. It should also include a description of how it fits within the broader architectural system and plan of the applicant's umbrella governmental or Tribal system, including specific back-up processes and services. A description of how the IT plan is compatible with business processes could be included as well.]

4.6 Resource requirements

The primary IT needs of MDOL for the successful completion of the traceability roadmap are:

- Year 1- Completion of the ServiceNow electronic database of brands movement to maximize searchability.
- Year 1 - Transition from USAHERDS to CoreOne software to improve data sharing with federal partners (Completed 2025).
- Year 3 - Development of a state IT system that allows communication between state software programs (animal health, brands, and the diagnostic lab) to facilitate disease program work and traceability.

4.7 Organizational needs

The organizational needs of the Montana Department of Livestock are listed in the sections below.

4.7.1 Executive support

The Department has good support from the current administration regarding the need for an effective system to trace animals for disease purposes. Additionally, the current administration has set numerous IT goals for gaining efficiencies in state work that will serve the advancement of traceability in Montana.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

The State Veterinarian's office with oversight by the Montana Board of Livestock and input from our state's livestock industry is responsible for advancing ADT in Montana.

4.7.3 Policy

The Department's ADT policy meets or exceeds the ADT general standards.

4.7.4 Staffing

MDOL has one full-time staff veterinarian committed to advancing animal disease traceability. The staff veterinarian along with other Department staff oversee the use of MIMS PDA by accredited veterinarians in the state, including providing initial training and set-up instructions, providing technical support, and facilitating reporting of test and vaccination data by the accredited veterinarian.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

ADT is funded through the federal cooperative agreement and state special revenue.

4.7.6 Outreach (required to be addressed within the Road Map)

The Department provides quarterly newsletters that address current ADT topics. The newsletters are archived and accessible on the Department website for veterinarians and producers.

4.7.6.1 *Accredited veterinarians*

The Department provides important educational opportunities for accredited veterinarians about the importance of data completeness, accurate and timely reporting, and the value of electronic records. MDOL hosts two accreditation training courses per year and sends quarterly newsletters via email. The Department also sends staff veterinarians and veterinary laboratory veterinarians to present current topics at the annual Montana Veterinary Medical Association Meeting.

4.7.6.2 *Slaughter plants*

Montana's slaughter plants are all small facilities. State and federally inspected facilities are required by state and federal regulation to maintain records on all animals slaughtered including the owner of the livestock and information on the individual animal. Montana's state meat and poultry inspection program is part of MDOL and can be consulted on any traceability questions arising from animals at slaughter.

Montana requires brucellosis testing of all sexually intact animals 12 months of age and older slaughtered at state inspected plants. This has increased the familiarity of staff with collecting ID and the need for traceability of animals at slaughter.

4.7.6.3 *Industry as a whole*

The Department offers support of livestock markets in the form of financial support to offset the cost of implementation of appropriate software for the issuance of eCVIs, regular communication to ensure that the unique traceability issues associated with livestock markets are managed uniformly across the state, and through coordination with livestock markets on how to capitalize on all of the information gathered at the yard to advance traceability.

While accredited veterinarians are fundamental to animal disease traceability, if industry does not support and understand our approach, we will meet constant resistance to implementation; therefore, MDOL continues to provide outreach education to state livestock organizations to discuss ADT updates.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Animal disease traceability information is captured on test charts, vaccination certificates, health certificates, MDOL import permits, brand inspections, market clearance sheets, and at the time of distribution of official identification. Historically, this data was stored in a paper-based format that was labor intensive, time-consuming and only available during regular business hours. Previously, the MDOL import permit system captured information from test charts and ICVI's prior to issuance of an import permit and provided only a limited capability to query traceability data. USAHerds allows the input and capture of a significantly larger amount of traceability data in a format that allows easy query. Test data, vaccination information, official identification, and CVI data can be entered into the system and accompanying documents can be scanned and associated with import permit information. Additionally, USAHerds is a web-based system that can be queried 24/7, can generate associated documents, and that allows the export of data in formats that can be easily transmitted to other States/Tribes/Territories.

All livestock movements into Montana require a CVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry unless going directly to a federally inspected slaughter plant or livestock market. On April 1st, 2020, MDOL transitioned to requiring import permits for animals traveling into the state on a paper health certificate only. Many of these animals are also additionally required to have individual identification. Consignee, consignor, origin, destination, test information, vaccination status, and ID if required is captured in the animal health computer system at the time of issuance of the import permit providing a searchable electronic database. Paper records that are submitted to the office are correlated to import permits and the supporting documents are scanned and saved in the animal health computer system.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

1. Increase access of accredited veterinarians to modalities of electronic reporting of program disease work and certificates of veterinary inspection.
2. Increase the number of official identification tags distributed in Montana.
3. Interaction with accredited veterinarians, livestock markets, and the livestock industry.
4. Cooperation with USDA-APHIS-VS to ensure compatibility of federal databases with those used by state animal health officials.
5. Quarterly newsletter distributed to accredited veterinarians with traceability updates.
6. Increase the number of locations identified by either a PIN or a LID
7. Annual review and update to the Montana Department of Livestock traceability website.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

The Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL) will work on all 7 priorities for advancement in all three years of the roadmap cycle.

In 2026 MDOL expects to be able to offer Montana veterinarians access to a new electronic CVI available through CoreOne as part of the efforts to meet priority 1. Also in pursuit of priority 1, MDOL continues to provide technical support to veterinarians wishing to use electronic forms for submission of official testing, CVIs, vaccination certificates, and other official documents.

In 2025 and 2026 MDOL is conducting targeted visits to livestock markets to discuss ADT and other official program work with commission companies, market veterinarians, and brands enforcement staff. Several visits have been conducted already and others will be completed during 2026 as part of addressing priority 3.

In 2025 and 2026 MDOL purchased additional RFID tags for distribution to Montana veterinarians beyond those provided at no cost by USDA. Montana has also worked with other states that did not use their entire federal allotment to acquire extra tags. This work on priority 2 will continue through all three years covered by this roadmap.

Montana conducts other activities relating to 4, 5, 6, and 7 on an ongoing and regular basis. These activities will continue through the entire cycle covered by this roadmap.