

Advancing Animal Disease Traceability Road Map for Arizona 2025

3 YEAR PLAN (2025-2028)

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) is working towards compliance with the federal traceability rules. Monumental progress has been made toward modernizing the state's Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) system reaching a critical milestone in August 2024 at which point Arizona became the 20th state to adopt Acclaim Systems USAHERDS as a commercial Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) management system solution. The AZDA is fully invested in promoting and refining traceability in Arizona and we acknowledge it is vital to the continuity of business in the face of an outbreak and a cornerstone of our ability to contain and mitigate animal diseases. We support the development of national standards for premises and animal identification while allowing for regional differences.

Arizona has a storied history being the 48th state to join the Union. Its' people are fiercely independent, respectful of tradition, and honest, hard-working, salt-of-the-earth good people. With that said, modern practices need to be adopted as the landscape of animal agriculture, interconnected markets or production systems, regional and international trade, and origins of constituent feed ingredient commodities are vastly more complicated than they were 100 years ago not to mention our position as a southern border state. We have an excellent relationship with USDA-APHIS-VS personnel and are committed to implementing this roadmap with the understanding that a major focus will be the cattle commodity sector. More specifically, we will work together to identify our gaps in traceability and implement practical solutions for this sector of the livestock industry.

We value contributions to solutions for common issues affecting all sectors and will welcome participation from all segments of the livestock industry including but not limited to accredited veterinarians, livestock producers, livestock markets, exhibitors, and other allied industries. AZDA recognizes that accredited veterinarians and livestock market operators are key components to a successful program. Therefore, we will continue to work with both sectors to address any issues potentially affecting their normal activities. AZDA and USDA staff will continue to partner to provide traceability education to accredited veterinarians during the accreditation process and to veterinary students at both Arizona veterinary schools. We will emphasize the use of electronic data collection tools and the use of electronic devices for official identification (ID).

As outlined in this roadmap, we will work with veterinary practices in Arizona to continue electronic collection of regulatory testing records, vaccination information, and the use of electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eICVI). Additionally, we are working with several practitioners to use an "840" electronic orange ear tag or record existing "840" ear tags to be used as the official ID for brucellosis vaccination.

Electronic CVIs, vaccination records and other data points all improve traceability and reduce the possibility for human transcription error. Increasing the number of animals that have official identification, particularly Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), makes them easier to find and more likely to be recorded throughout their life. With continued support from USDA providing Arizona producers and veterinarians with regular and brucellosis EID and 964 series Import tags

at no additional charge, we hope to see the number of EID tagged livestock increase across the state and compliance improve.

Arizona's Online Permitting System (OPS) and legacy Microsoft Access Database provide traceability information within an hour during regular operating hours. This entry permit system is also remotely accessible to the Office of the State Veterinarian staff outside of normal operating hours if needed. Animals requiring an entry permit (swine, cattle, sheep, and goats) can be traced to an associated Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) in real time.

Currently, requests for traceability information are answered during normal business hours unless extenuating circumstances require immediate attention. For all species, trace time is a function of timely receipt of CVI's from in-state and out-of-state veterinarians. Scrapie tag traces may be accomplished in one day. Data from the federal database is normally available within an hour, but always within one day. Manual traces of CVIs have been accomplished within 2-3 days of request. AZDA staff can search GVL, VSPS, and AgView in real time with trace information being available within minutes or hours, depending on staff availability.

During each month of AZDA's cooperative agreement period, letters and registration forms are mailed or emailed to producers. Arizona maintains open lines of communication with the state cooperators and successfully registers premises and grazing allotments through state or federal data entry programs. Outreach has been accomplished through editorial articles in producer magazines such as the AZ Cattle-log with additional email campaigns and in-person producer association meetings.

The AZDA fully supports the USDA-VS in its efforts to enhance animal disease traceability as it pertains to animal health management.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The Arizona Department of Agriculture was established in 1990 and consolidated several separate boards. The current incarnation is the results of several iterative reorganizations but the Office of the State Veterinarian can be traced back to the Arizona Livestock Board and before that the Livestock Sanitary Board of the Territory of Arizona to include the Territorial Veterinary Surgeon. The AZDA Animal Services Division, Office of the State Veterinarian, is responsible for implementing the animal disease traceability system for the state of Arizona. Livestock producers and veterinarians are AZDA's primary constituents. AZDA's external constituents are the national livestock industry, USDA-APHIS-VS and consumer groups. AZDA's jurisdiction includes the state of Arizona as well as continued cooperation and open communication with the state's indigenous tribes and sovereign nations. All traceability data is used internally by the

AZDA to aid in disease investigations. Data is shared with USDA-APHIS-VS when requested. Privacy of data is an important goal of AZDA's animal traceability system. The utmost effort will be made to ensure that any data collected via paper will be uploaded securely in electronic databases without duplication or error.

2.2 Where are we now?

Current tracking ability exists through the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) forms and is supported by Brucellosis (VS 4-33) and Tuberculosis (VS 6-22) test records. An inventory of female cattle is maintained through official calfhooed vaccination certificates (VS 4-24). Arizona has a state mandatory record retention schedule of between five (5) to seven (7) years to be compliant with ADT requirements and satisfy state law. This record-keeping requirement currently enables a manual search of CVIs when needed. The retention period would suffice except for perhaps BSE/Scrapie but even then, the likelihood of being able to find that animal within the previous 5 years should be fairly high. The ability to manually search records will be maintained but is dependent on full staffing capabilities which makes ADT support of an ADT coordinator all that much more important to satisfy entering of Entry Permit Numbers (EPNs), shipping of in-state ICVIs to receiving states, management of incoming out-of-state ICVIs, and manual trace backs. Requests for information related to traces typically would be addressed Monday – Friday during regular business hours though if a significant situation warranted, traces outside of business hours, on weekends and federal holidays could be conducted if necessary.

Arizona's infrastructure for ADT consists of a legacy Access database, which houses all livestock movements into the state. Arizona requires an ICVI, EPN, and a combination of TB, T. fetus, and brucellosis tests on cattle imports. The requirements vary between age groups, beef and dairy, and breeding versus slaughter or show animals. Additionally, Arizona has entry permit requirements for sheep, goats, and pigs. Horses and poultry require an ICVI, but no permit. AZDA's data entry personnel are responsible for compliance checks on incoming paper health certificates and electronic CVIs, as well as filing and retrieval if trace back is required. This position is also responsible for forwarding the Arizona ICVIs to the receiving states. All these duties are currently performed manually and by mail since no scanning capability exists to forward ICVI's electronically. Due to staffing and funding constraints, the department cannot estimate when AZDA will be able to implement electronically forwarded ICVIs, but increased acceptance and usage of GVL, VSPS, and other digital ICVI programs has greatly increased the AZDA's ability to trace animals in real-time without a manual search of paper records. The current operation of mailing is performed weekly, which limits the 48-hour traceback ability on recent interstate movements.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths: Arizona is a mandatory brand inspection state and inspections are issued either by paper or electronically through self-inspection of non-range cattle. Cattle are either exported from producers ranches directly or via one of our 7 livestock auctions in the state. Brand inspection of all cattle is a requirement of these shipments when transferring ownership or to slaughter. Multiple accredited veterinarians in the state have had the orange 840 tags issued to them for the purposes of identifying official calfhooed vaccinates. EID data can be captured manually at any of the livestock auctions if veterinarians have equipment to read EIDs. Long term, our goal would be to have panel readers installed and integrated with the auction's software system to generate sales

slips and transfer data for eICVI issuance. The ability to respond in a timely manner is paramount to Arizona producers and regulatory officials.

Weaknesses: There is a clear opportunity for implementation of the EID capture data system to track animal movements. Response times would be expedited with the implementation of an all-electronic data system. Unfortunately, the current brand inspection system cannot capture or transmit individual ID data. Most female cattle in the state have individual ID's but is difficult to manually capture the data currently. While cooperative agreement funds are appreciated and essential to AZDA's current activities, current levels of state funding are inadequate to fully implement a robust system. In time, as federal budgets are able to support and with USDA's continued commitment to provide no-cost EID tags, ADT funding support for an ADT coordinator position, and wand or panel reader infrastructure, the dataset of electronically identified cattle in Arizona will increase along with the ability to protect the national livestock industry.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities: Providing education and promoting the use of EID tags to producers and industry partners allows AZDA the opportunity to provide information on all aspects of ADT. The continued implementation and transition of producers and accredited veterinarians to the use of EID tags provides benefits for all involved in ADT. Increased data collection, accuracy, and quicker epidemiological investigations will result in a shortened timeline to contain and eradicate diseases.

Threats: Failure to continue progressing ADT in Arizona administered by the state could negatively affect the department's ability of protecting the livestock industry, food safety, and commerce within our borders.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The Arizona Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division consists of one office and 4 program areas. Those are:

The Office of the State Veterinarian:

Personnel Resources: 1 x State Veterinarian, 2 x Assistant State Veterinarians, 1 x Certified Veterinary Technician, 1 x Emergency Manager, 1 x Administrative Assistant (General)

Meat Inspection Program:

Personnel Resources: 1 x Program Manager, 2 x Regional Managers, 1 x Investigator, 10 x Inspectors

Dairy Inspection Program:

Personnel Resources: 1 x Joint Program Manager Supervisor, 1 x Dairy Program Manager, 4 x Dairy Inspectors

Egg Inspection Program:

Personnel Resources: 1 x Joint Program Manager Supervisor

- 1 x Egg Grading Federal Cooperative Program (FCP) Manager, 2 x Egg Grading FCP Supervisors, 12 x Egg Grading FCP Inspectors
- 1 x State Egg Program Supervisor, 6 x State Egg Program Inspectors

Livestock (Brand) Inspection Program:

Personnel Resources: 1 x Chief Livestock Officer (Cpt – vacant), 2 x Livestock Officers (Lt), 1 x Livestock Officer (Sgt), 1 x Salt River Horse Liaison, 12 x Livestock Inspectors

With the exception of some satellite offices currently occupied by Plant & Produce Services Division, all of Animal Services Division staff that aren't part of the field livestock inspection staff are all based out of the main office in Phoenix, AZ. Connectivity is maintained between field and office personnel via wireless network / cell service area coverage-hotspot acknowledging there are significant areas across the state where no cell service exists when dealing with livestock and inquiries must wait until contact is restored.

All Office of the State Veterinarian staff have access to a combination of ADTIS (AINMS, PREM MGMT, SCS-CORE, VSPS, VSLS, DIS), GlobalVetLink, VET CVI, AgView, Vet Sentry, Legacy Microsoft Access Database and Network Drive. Paper records are scanned and uploaded into a shared network drive organized by week (export) or batched by year (import). Network security is provided by a state-administered Microsoft Azure cloud storage environment. Acclaim Systems USAHERDS automatically imports electronically messaged incoming or outgoing CVIs from several eICVI vendors and is utilized as a central repository and data aggregator/extractor. Our goal is to phase out Arizona paper CVIs within the next 2 years.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Vision of the Agency is to employ new technology and strategies to protect the health and Safety of Arizona consumers by fostering relationships both within the Department and outside of the Department to ensure coordinated response to disease threats and supporting a robust and resilient industry.

3.2 Mission Statement

The Mission of our Agency is to protect the health and safety of Arizona consumers, advance and support Arizona agriculture, and safeguard commerce.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

The AZDA will coordinate with USDA in support of the following goals:

1. Electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials will be enhanced and facilitated through USAHERDS. Using this repository, we can query systems to search for animal ID or test data to assist accredited veterinarians, regulatory authorities, and industry. Federal Animal Health Events Repository (AHER) entries will be completed by a dedicated ADT administrative assistant and the Assistant State Veterinarian or State Veterinarian as needed.
2. AZDA will continue to distribute USDA supplied electronic ID (EID) tags for animals requiring individual identification to make the transmission of data more efficient and to ensure compliance with the EID final rule for cattle and bison covered livestock.
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. AZDA and the State of Arizona have implemented this first step by acquiring USAHERDS to send and receive eICVIs and have provided accredited veterinarians in Arizona the opportunity to transition to a state-subsidized electronic VET CVI program that interfaces with USAHERDS.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

1. The AZDA will utilize USAHERDS and a dedicated ADT coordinator to ensure that databases are maintained, manual test results or ICVIs entered and transmitted in a timely manner and AHERS reports completed.
2. AZDA will continue to distribute USDA supplied EID tags and ensure that producers in Arizona obtain Premises Identification Numbers with the tag distribution recorded in AINMS. With a dedicated ADT coordinator this tag distribution will also be recorded in USAHERDS.
3. By integrating state-based data collection in USAHERDS with the semi-automated transmission and receipt of eICVIs, coupled with livestock inspection records and slaughter inspection daily kill sheets as well as ADTIS, a significant amount of data can be searched looking for a particular siting of an animal at various points across the farm-to-table pathway.
4. AZDA and the State of Arizona have implemented the start of the transition from paper issued ICVIs to eICVIs through a state-subsidized electronic VET CVI program that interfaces with USAHERDS. Over the next 3 years we will be working to transition 90% of our accredited

veterinarians in the state to a fully eICVI submission process. To this end we will continue outreach efforts with both veterinarians, industry stakeholders such as markets and producers to emphasize the efficiencies gained by adopting EID and the streamlining of commerce in addition to the benefits to animal disease response.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

[This section should specify the ADT TPMs used for documenting progress and accountability. Completion of TPMs is a required ADT activity. Completion of assigned trace quotas must be achieved to maintain eligibility for ADT cooperative agreement funds.]

Objective 1: Maintain current animal disease traceability infrastructure while building upon existing systems with available funding and staffing.

Target Result 1: At least 3 staff (State Veterinarian, Assistant State Veterinarian and an ADT Coordinator) will be trained to be proficient in rapidly executable searches of a combination of ADTIS (AINMS, PREM MGMT, SCS-CORE, VSPS, VSLS, DIS), GlobalVetLink, VET CVI, AgView, Vet Sentry, Legacy Microsoft Access Database and Network Drive.

Objective 2: Upgrade the potential of a 48-hour trace of diseased animals.

Target Result 2: An ADT Coordinator will be tasked with entering all incoming and outgoing paper CVI data into USAHERDS. Additionally, quality control and evaluation of incoming or outgoing ICVIs for audit purposes and correction of errors will be instituted.

Objective 3: Institute a program providing five-day transfer of data to other states.

Target Result 3: AZDA utilizing USAHERDS and the Online Permitting System (OPS) allows accredited veterinarian users to electronically submit and request an Entry Permit Number (EPN) for incoming (import) shipments of livestock into Arizona. Transmission of paper ICVIs will be prioritized to meet a 7 day-from-receipt goal. With additional funding and an ADT Assistant Coordinator, we will attempt to meet a 5 day-from-receipt target.

Objective 4: Implement an outreach plan for accredited veterinarians and public livestock auctions describing the applicant's plan for advancing

animal disease traceability, emphasizing interstate certificates of veterinary inspection, record keeping, and timely distribution requirements by accredited veterinarians.

Target Result 4: AZDA staff through the nearly monthly AZ state specific veterinary accreditation seminars for new accreditations or authorizations will emphasize VET CVI or eICVIs in general and the importance of adoption of EIDs and wand readers to streamline data entry into an eICVI.

Objective 5: Optimize the acquisition and search ability of potential animal disease traceability data from interstate certificates of veterinary inspection, and if applicable, data from bovine brucellosis vaccination, bovine brucellosis testing, and bovine tuberculosis testing.

Target Result 5: USAHERDS will be used to leverage data collection and searchability by creating a fusion center of ICVI, tag distribution, and test result data.

4.4 Data requirements

As mentioned previously ADT data are acquired through eICVIs, paper ICVI data entry, tag distribution data, daily kill sheets from state inspected slaughter facilities, and livestock (brand) inspections. Data storage and retrieval has been described elsewhere in this document to include cataloguing and integration of electronic and analog ADT information. The standards for official animal identification include all such identification as permitted in 9 CFR.

Currently no commuter herd agreements exist between Arizona and other states. Supplied in-state or approved out-of-state paper ICVIs and all eICVIs meeting the USAHA eICVI data schema are considered approved forms of ICVI. Data will be shared with other states or USDA as needed by request.

4.5 Information technology plan

AZDA has already acquired Acclaim Systems USAHERDS and funding is ensured for at least 5 years. Potentially as the Department modernizes additional areas of the Animal Services Division and Central Licensing (to include Livestock (brand) Inspection), upgraded single solution products such as Ag Enterprise (the successor to USAHERDS) may be adopted to cover the additional needs of Plant and Produce and Environmental and Structural Pest Management Divisions and provide additional synthesis of information related to a specific premises. Currently the Microsoft Azure

based environment is managed by Acclaim Systems and accessed by AZDA. This environment is mirrored in multiple discreet data centers across the country to ensure a robust redundancy and resilience in the face of regional network outages.

4.6 Resource requirements

The entire staff of the Office of the State Veterinarian are very novice and inexperienced users of USAHERDS and we have not yet unlocked its full potential for disease management situations as we have only been using the program for 8 months. As time progresses and more individuals become capable with the technology, we will continue to enhance our data management. A specific ADT Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) has not been developed except for broad reversion to paper-based analog systems in the event of a widespread mass network outage, underwater communications cable severance, satellite failure, or prolonged and sustained cyberattack. The ADT coordinator will be tasked with development of this COOP under the guidance of our Emergency Manager. Automated data capture resources such as EID panel reader infrastructure installed at 3 out of 7 livestock markets and both international ports of entry would be a mid- to long-term goal.

4.7 Organizational needs

The AZDA is incredibly resource-limited especially for personnel and there are no additional resources to be leveraged at this point in time. We are currently working with the legislature and Governor's Office to request additional funding to support the hiring of 1-4 veterinarians and at least one other Certified Veterinary Technician.

4.7.1 Executive support

Internally, I believe the AZDA senior leadership recognize the importance of ADT in a disease response context however more broadly at the state-level, the Arizona Department of Agriculture has always been a lower priority than other Departments or Agencies when it comes to allocation of State General Funds. I believe additional and targeted briefings for the Governor's Natural Resources Advisor and more engagement with industry to convince industry to "carry that water" to the legislature and encourage authoring and approval of bills to provide a legislated mandate of why support of the AZDA and more specifically ADT is needed for disease response is crucial to our continued evolution.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Coordination and oversight of advancing ADT is ultimately the responsibility of the SAHO as implemented through the ADT Coordinator, Assistant State Veterinarian, Livestock Inspectors, and State Meat Inspectors. While not specific to ADT, there are both an AZDA Advisory Council and a Division Council comprised of other agency (AZGF or USDA) and/or industry stakeholders. Meetings are conducted quarterly to semiannually. Feedback from USDA, outside state animal health representatives, and producers will all be considered with respect to the perception of the successful implementation of program.

The current SAHO is looking on the horizon to create additional levels of veterinarian, emergency response staff, and support staff in the form of Certified Veterinary Technicians or administrative assistants. All of this is to create a proper succession plan with opportunities for worthy and tenured individuals to grow within the department, invest in their training, and create that resiliency and exit strategy to include hand-off for the SAHO when the time comes.

4.7.3 Policy

No changes to state policy to align with 9CFR part 86 or the ADT OAIDS are required.

4.7.4 Staffing

Full-time Office of the State Veterinarian staff are paid by varying combinations and percentages of State General Fund and USDA Cooperative Agreement money. Qualifications are variable and dependent on the position. There are no additional human resources to leverage at this time as the Department is already quite lean. Currently ADT has been a communal group effort but to increase familiarity and enhance performance through focused work, the goal is to develop ADT into a standalone responsibility for the Department with dedicated resources instead of sharing and typically supporting livestock inspection.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

Full-time Office of the State Veterinarian staff are paid by varying combinations and percentages of State General Fund and USDA Cooperative Agreement money.

Currently the projected level of USDA Cooperative Agreement over the next three years accounting for a 3% cost-of-living adjustment and inflation, propose a USDA cost-share provision of \$62,510 in Year 1, \$64,385 in Year 2 and \$66,317 in Year 3. State

General Fund contributions which as previously mentioned fund Acclaim Systems USAHERDS maintenance and support for the next 5 years are already slated to increase by at least 3% per year. Insulation against budget cuts and shortfalls can to a certain extent be provided by diversion from other operational funds recognizing that some other activities may be impacted.

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

4.7.6.1 *Accredited veterinarians*

AZDA staff through the nearly monthly AZ state specific veterinary accreditation seminars for new accreditations or authorizations will emphasize VET CVI or eICVIs in general and the importance of adoption of EIDs and wand readers to streamline data entry into an eICVI. Auditing of ICVIs will provide additional opportunity for targeted training of “frequent-flyers” needing additional help or guidance with complete and accurate data entry. Over time, to support phasing out of paper ICVIs, AZDA will begin to charge to recoup production and mailing costs of the ICVI booklets we currently produce and distribute free-of-charge to our accredited veterinarians.

4.7.6.2 *Slaughter plants*

The SAHO will continue to work with the State Meat Inspection Program Manager to ensure official IDs are recorded on daily kill sheets as well as origin information. The State Meat Inspection Program Manager will in turn disseminate this information to their regional supervisors and then the inspectors.

4.7.6.3 *Industry as a whole*

There are both an AZDA Advisory Council and a Division Council comprised of other agency (AZGF or USDA) and/or industry stakeholders. Meetings are conducted quarterly to semiannually. Feedback from USDA, outside state animal health representatives, and producers will all be considered with respect to the perception of the successful implementation of program. Additional resources for industry outreach include the annual Farm Bureau convention, regional producer association groups and cooperatives. Industry is constituted by all producers, processors, livestock markets and other entities that may be involved in the production, marketing, or processing points

of the commodity pathway. This includes tribal outreach initiatives and work conducted with the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Data will be mined from both digitized analog records and electronically messaged eICVIs in USAHERDS to provide the number of animals and the number of shipments moved interstate. Additional data mining will support provision of:

- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents created within the State/Tribe/Territory on a year-to-date basis for move-out animals
- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents received for move-in animals
- Number of animals by species and class for move-in events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified
- Number of animals by species and class for move-out events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified
- Volume of distribution for each official numbering system/device issued by the State/Tribe/Territory and/or AVIC office, including backtags by market or slaughter facility.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Phasing out of paper ICVIs is a priority over the next 3 years such that a 90% transition to eICVI will be adopted.
- Issuance of EID capture equipment to a portion of the state's brand inspectors and accredited veterinarians to further field test implementation of hardware and software to capture data and upload tracking through brand inspection and eICVI's. This action will provide AZDA a resource for regional testing and perfecting of the processes and equipment.

- Implementation of EID capture equipment and software at one or two Arizona public livestock auctions.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

- Phasing out of paper ICVIs is a priority over the next 3 years such that a 90% transition to eICVI will be adopted. YEAR 1,2,3
- Issuance of EID capture equipment to a portion of the state's brand inspectors and accredited veterinarians to further field test implementation of hardware and software to capture data and upload tracking through brand inspection and eICVI's. This action will provide AZDA a resource for regional testing and perfecting of the processes and equipment. YEAR 1,2,3
- Implementation of EID capture equipment and software at one or two Arizona public livestock auctions. YEAR 3