

2026 Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Colorado

A Three-Year Plan

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Animal Health Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture is responsible for animal health and disease control activities in Colorado. The division works in close cooperation with the livestock industry and veterinary medical organizations, as well as other state and federal agencies, to protect the health, welfare, and marketability of Colorado livestock. A large element of disease prevention and control is animal disease traceability. Colorado has greatly enhanced its animal disease traceability capabilities in the last 15 years, however industry continues to advance the goal post. Colorado transitioned from a paper filing system to an electronic database back in 2012. We worked with Acclaim and other states to help develop the Vet-CVI program and continue to offer it to our veterinarians free of charge. In January of 2024 we stopped issuing paper CVIs to veterinarians and provided technology seminars and assistance to veterinarians across the state making the transition to electronic health documents. In 2025, we transitioned from the USAHERDS database to the suite of databases with TraceFirst, including CoreOne and CVI Central. The Animal Health Division's dedication to incorporate traceability throughout our division is demonstrated in our addition of our Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) goals outlined here within the CDA's strategic plan for our division.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

Colorado collaborates with every level of the industry, from large markets down to individual producers and veterinarians, to ensure robust statewide traceability.

Colorado's Livestock Information Security Act prevents the State from sharing proprietary information with federal agencies, but does contain an emergency exemption allowing information sharing with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state animal health officials, and other emergency management response partners in times of disease and disaster affecting Colorado animal agriculture. Colorado will continue to partner with USDA Veterinary Services (VS) for disease control, emergency response, and animal disease traceability efficiencies. Colorado is responsible for registering livestock premises on a voluntary basis for animals not requiring official identification (ID), and on a mandatory basis for producers who require official identification. We participate in the USDA NO-Cost tags program and provide tags to both producers and veterinarians. Tags are allocated to their respective Premises ID upon distribution and we require notification once the tags are physically placed in animals. Producers and veterinarians are educated on National and State ADT regulations at the time of tag distribution. All of this data is placed in our searchable database and used during disease incidents, lost animal tracing, and general emergency management.

The Animal Health Division work is guided by multiple values, first and foremost the safety of our state and national food system, data security and the core values outlined by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA): Respect, Professionalism, Service, Partnership, and being Proactive. CDA has an informal internal ADT advisory group that approaches every situation with the values of our organization.

There are countless constituents involved in the Colorado ADT efforts. All of these stakeholders have contact with more small industry stakeholders which creates a trickle down effect of information that can impact the ADT program.

- Colorado Livestock Producers
- Colorado accredited veterinarians
- Colorado livestock markets
- Colorado Department of Agriculture-Division Animal Health
- Colorado area USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-VS
- Colorado livestock industry stakeholders
- Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital
- Colorado State University Research and Extension
- Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
- Colorado Livestock Market Association
- Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture

2.2 Where are we now?

Animal disease traceability is knowing the location, time, and contacts of diseased and at-risk animals. These data points have to be constantly collected throughout the production chain. Generally these data points are collected through official identification tagging, vaccination, movement, livestock market pass through, and slaughter facilities. Animal disease traceability is integrated into emergency response plans, all levels of our education and outreach programs, and through our staff training.

Historically, like all states, Colorado used paper to track the life events of animals within our Traceability system. In 2012, Colorado transitioned to electronic databases to store our data. In January of 2024, Colorado stopped issuing paper certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) to our veterinarians. While we still accept paper vaccine records and CVIs, we offer electronic platforms for nearly all animal records that come through our office. This transition to electronic documentation allows traceability to occur nearly instantaneously and move with the speed of commerce. The system is limited only by our ability to populate it with useful data from CVIs, test charts, disease investigations, and livestock incident response activities. It is our goal to work at the national level to find ways to integrate animal disease traceability data with other databases that are in use as it will benefit all states and our national capabilities in disease traceability.

Colorado strives to be a leader in the field of ADT information sharing. By being involved in these conversations, both regionally through the Western States Livestock Health Association, and nationally through the United States Animal Health Association, progress has been made on data sharing and integration. We will continue to be a leader in electronic

ID and information sharing. Helping to establish a common reporting format for ADT information that will work with multiple state information databases is a priority for Colorado. This type of standard data formatting will reap dividends in regards to shared interstate livestock movement and animal ID information.

Colorado's current database vendor shares information between our Colorado Animal Health Lab and our office. Laboratory accession data is entered into our database and is connected to the premises ID (PIN) or Location ID number (LID), the animal ID, and other premises information such as livestock disease incidents.

Colorado continues to support (through consultation, testing assistance, and in some cases monetary funding) solutions for sharing information between GlobalVetLINK (GVL) and Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) in regards to finding a uniform reporting format for automatic sending of CVIs generated in those systems to our database. We will continue to look for those opportunities for improved information sharing of livestock movement and animal ID data between different databases, and will help to fund those enhancements. The Vet CVI app allows CVIs generated by the accredited veterinarians to be automatically and simultaneously uploaded to both the origin state and state of destination upon submission. This is a pathway to improved data sharing between states and could potentially serve as an alternative to an entry permitting system. Receiving eCVIs at the time of issuance provides the crucial real-time information required to conduct prompt follow-up and necessary action.

Increasing the use of electronic records in all aspects of ADT is a primary goal of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. By continuing to increase the use of electronic CVIs with our accredited veterinarians, we help to make this data more searchable and accurate within our CoreOne database. This helps us to have electronic records of livestock premises, animal IDs, and livestock movement information.

Additionally, helping veterinarians see the benefit of electronic animal ID (radio frequency identification, or RFID, ear tags- both low frequency and ultra-high frequency tags) in their electronic form generation (testing and vaccination charts as well as CVIs) saves them time and money while at the same time reducing the amount of manual data entry. To this end, we continue to train and work with our veterinary medical officers (VMOs) and also make sure that both the Program Veterinarian and Traceability Program Specialist are available to educate and troubleshoot these electronic options with the veterinarians of our state. We provide a "help-desk" type of service to all of our veterinarians if they encounter problems using electronic CVIs. They know that they can count on our office to provide help and solid customer service. We feel it is important to support the veterinarians who are trying to transition to a new era of CVIs, and this will continue to be a priority for increasing and managing the number of electronic records in our database. A veterinarian from our staff is always on call to assist our veterinarians with any needs, whether that be to report disease outbreaks or help with import or export requirements.

Another way that we continue to promote the use of electronic records is through assisting other states in adopting electronic CVI options for their own veterinarians. When asked by other state animal health officials, our Division staff has also shared our office processes to accommodate the increased use of electronic CVIs.

CDA has taken a leadership role with the State-Only ADT group, a working group open to all the states, to help guide and coordinate ADT efforts between the states. Colorado was one of the first states to help form this group and continues to be active participants of the group. This group's role is to envision new enhancements, have monthly conference calls, and, ultimately, to develop and implement nationwide goals and standards for ADT throughout the states. Colorado will continue to stay active and engaged in this group.

As we continue to work with other states to improve traceability, whether they are using state-built databases, Surveillance Collaboration Services (SCS), CoreOne, or USAHERDS, it will result in an increasing percentage of electronic records generated in our database and in theirs. In building cooperation and collaboration on information sharing and database integration, we will increase our electronic records to build our nation's traceability capabilities. It also serves to make data sharing more convenient and timely in real life scenarios.

We are increasing the use of electronic records by working closely with the USDA/APHIS VS to facilitate electronic submission options for all possible traceability requirements, including tuberculosis (TB) test charts and Brucellosis vaccination charts. Those electronic formats of data are much easier to share and/or trace than traditional data from paper forms or submissions.

We also plan to continue to work closely with livestock auction markets to improve the animal ID records; these often play a critical role in actual disease traces and if not properly maintained, can lead to a loss of traceability at a critical juncture. We intend to have VMOs continue to work with all livestock auction markets and their veterinarians to move toward electronic record keeping. Colorado has provided the SaleTime Vet Module to four markets in our state to assist veterinarians with easier coordination and documentation of animals moving through markets. We have provided No-Cost RFID tags to all our markets and 75% of markets have been provided wand readers at no cost to the markets. All of our markets use electronic CVI for movements. Looking forward, CDA wants to concentrate on improving market infrastructure for electronic tags and data sharing for movement documentation, vaccination, and testing records.

Another component of increasing electronic record use in disease outbreaks, ensuring both office and field staff are trained and familiar with the databases that will be used in these real-world scenarios. Ensuring that 2-3 CDA Animal Health Division employees are trained in the use of Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) continues to be a priority. As mentioned previously, all of our exercise and real-life trace-outs will be recorded in EMRS2, which will play a large role in a real-life disease outbreak.

Additionally, keeping 2-3 employees trained, proficient, and with up-to-date access in the federal and private animal health databases, is crucial in searching and conducting both National Priority Traces (NPTs) and real-life trace-outs. Private databases like GVL and IMI Global, along with federal databases like SCS, SCS-Scrapie, VSPS, and the Animal Identification Management System (AIMS) are all critical in tracing a real world disease scenario. Combining the capability of our database, familiarity with these locations, and proficiency with the other databases, strengthens the emergency disease response that we can conduct in real-life scenarios.

The CDA field staff and traceability specialists at the State Veterinarian's Office have also assisted practicing veterinarians and Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital staff in using Mobile Information Management (MIM) technology for capture of animal ID data for TB herd testing or other situations. In addition, we will keep at least three CDA staff trained on use of MIMs, wands, and animal ID data capture to assist field efforts and for use in emergency management incidents. This aids animal ID data sharing and increases traceability through an expanded database of animal IDs. In the past, we have funded the purchase of equipment and will continue to support, fund, and maintain proficiency in this area. We have continued to acquire funding to purchase equipment (RFID readers, RFID taggers, rugged laptop and rugged tablets) and software (SaleTime Vet Module) for livestock auctions to increase access to electronic CVIs and RFID capabilities, allowing us to improve our traceability.

A significant portion of Colorado's cooperative funding is allocated to personnel and database costs. With rising costs CDA struggles to be able to continue to purchase new equipment to get into the hands of veterinarians and markets. We have successfully secured general funding to support the salary for one of our ADT employees. The budget request for an increase in ADT funding from our state will allow us to continue to maintain business continuity and operational stability in the face of rising costs over the next 3 years.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- Electronic data capture: After stopping paper CVI distribution in January of 2024, our export CVIs for 2024 were 94% electronic, and imports were 83% electronic.
- Strong working relationships with Colorado USDA APHIS VS staff and industry stakeholders
- Efficient messaging and up to date animal entry requirements through our CDA website
- Colorado's secure food supply plans
- In 2025 Colorado Department of Agriculture worked with Colorado Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, to sign a statewide One Health Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is the first of its kind as a statewide agreement.
- Staff with strong technological skills who are willing to troubleshoot.

Weaknesses

- CVIs that are illegible, missing information, animal ID numbers that are not accurately recorded by veterinarians.
- CVIs or testing data that does not automatically upload or connect to our database.
- Limited funding for electronic identification (EID) readers and electronic data capture systems to be able to provide to producers, livestock markets, and veterinarians in the field.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

This plan outlines our history with ADT and our goal to move the needle forward in Colorado. Our goal is to incrementally implement infrastructure into markets, improve relationships with stakeholders, and give Colorado improved tools to respond to any threat to ADT in our state. Establishing good communications, networks, and appropriate infrastructure within our state is key in avoiding potential threats. Moving forward we want to utilize better communication and resources in our markets as they are a large hub of animal movement and would create the largest impact and close the largest gaps in animal disease traceability. While our markets currently follow the mandatory statutes for animal disease traceability, they have room to improve, streamline, and create more efficiency. Colorado always strives to enhance networking opportunities for stakeholders in our state. If we can not implement this plan, Colorado will begin to fall behind as a leader of animal disease traceability. Given the recent personnel reductions to USDA VS resources within our state, the capacity for this plan's implementation rests with the Colorado Animal Health Division. Colorado has had an ADT roadmap and received cooperative funding for over a decade. Without this funding we would lack the personnel and database to be able to secure optimal animal disease traceability within our state.

Opportunities

- Continue hosting veterinarian data capture seminars to encourage electronic ID capture and foster collaboration between veterinarians for better data capture.
- Increasing information capture of EID tagging through the No-Cost RFID program.
- Communication, education, and outreach to our stakeholders.
- Improving information and traceability at livestock auctions.

Threats

- Risk of transboundary or emerging disease introduction without appropriate timely recognition in the field.
- Distrust from our Stakeholders due to increased backgrounding costs caused by EID.
- Cuts to funding on the state and federal level and loss of experienced and knowledgeable personnel.
- Having a system that is limited to feedback and information provided to us.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

CDA office personnel include 3 full-time employees who are responsible for entering and primary review of CVIs. We also have a full-time Traceability Specialist and a Program Veterinarian dedicated to ADT and non-compliance issues and contingency plans. We have 4 field staff members that also contribute enforcement with livestock auctions and routine compliance. We also work closely with our USDA counterparts to be able to cover the whole of Colorado. We have adequate office space. We have 2 full-time staff that have access and proficiency to search for official animal ID and animal movement data located in the following nine databases: AIMS, SCS, SCS-Scrapie, EMRS2, VSPS, IMI Global, GVL, and CoreOne. Our entire database is now digital and contained within CoreOne.

Data management is overseen by Colorado's Office of Technology with all storage in the cloud. With that, the state is providing capacity without foreseen storage limitations, the necessary processing speed to allow completion of multiple tasks while automated functions perform in the background, as well as security and needed support. In addition to this, TraceFirst maintains backed up data for all states in the event of any severe data corruption.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

Overall, the vision of the Animal Health Division of CDA is to advance animal disease traceability and protect Colorado's livestock industry, and function cooperatively and proficiently as a partner with Colorado's two Native American tribes, 49 other States, and the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, in order to respond effectively to livestock disease and all-hazards events.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the CDA is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources. More specifically, the mission of the Animal Health Division of CDA is to be responsible for animal health and livestock disease control activities in Colorado and to provide for an efficient and effective response to significant livestock disease incidents. Animal Disease Traceability is such an integral part of completing this mission that we include ADT goals into our Strategic Planning for the Division.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

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.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

1. Information Sharing
 - a. We transitioned to electronic databases in 2012. There is much overlap between livestock disease control, animal emergency response and disease traceability; CoreOne stores information on livestock premises, official animal ID, livestock movement as captured from certificates of veterinary inspection (both import and export CVIs), disease surveillance testing, and disease outbreak incidents in Colorado. It is our goal to work at the national level to find ways to integrate animal disease traceability data with other databases that are in use as it will benefit all states and our national capabilities in disease traceability. Our CDA staff will actively pursue opportunities to integrate and share information across multiple databases. Colorado strives to be a leader in the field of ADT information sharing.
 - b. We will continue to work to refine the process and participate with USDA VS to upload animal ID data to AHER to improve the efficiency of traceability of official animal IDs.
 - c. Colorado's has a state statute called the Livestock Information Security Act which prevents the State from sharing all proprietary information with federal agencies, but does contain an emergency exemption allowing information sharing with the USDA, state animal health officials, and other emergency management response partners in times of disease and disaster affecting Colorado animal agriculture. We fully intend to partner with USDA VS for disease control, emergency response, and animal disease traceability efficiencies.
 - d. The existing electronic CVI systems including the VET-CVI, Global Vet Link, VSPS, SaleTime and Fort Supply CVIs send data directly to CoreOne in Colorado and to other states. This is a tremendous step forward in sharing information electronically and improves animal disease traceability.
 - e. CDA has MOUs with other border states; these agreements allow for better coordination and integration of information between states.

- f. Colorado will continue to use the MIM system alongside USDA's Animal Identification Management System (AIMS), which tracks official 840 tag transfers. The presence of an official 840 tag and supporting movement documents (CVIs) enables precise individual animal traceability. In addition, during disease traceability incidents, CDA will share information with EMRS2. All of this improves information sharing between CDA and USDA VS.
 - g. CDA is available to entities and agencies — both intrastate and interstate — that require assistance with animal health and disease traceability. Colorado communicates frequently with industry organizations, other states' animal health officials, tribes, and federal animal health officials.
 - h. Colorado will continue to actively participate in the national conversation to standardize animal health data transfer from electronic CVIs to other animal records.
 - i. Colorado assisted with the development of VET-CVI, an electronic CVI application that integrates movement data into CoreOne. VET-CVI is also capable of recording brucellosis vaccination and tuberculosis test charts that we then submit to our area USDA VS office. These features allow for official identification RFID tags to be easily scanned into the test/vaccination charts as well as CVIs.
2. Administration of official identification devices
- a. Continue to educate veterinarians and producers on the value of electronic official animal ID to their own business models, with the benefit of increasing animal disease traceability.
 - b. Plan to continue to work with many of the veterinarians who are using electronic CVIs to help them migrate official animal ID tag numbers on to the CVI so that all of those tag numbers automatically migrate into CoreOne
 - c. When veterinarians call to order or inquire about official ID tags, the caller is provided options for all available tags, including the no-cost program.
 - d. The Division offers orange RFID brucellosis tags & white RFID tags to veterinarians who want to use this option for their clients' livestock, as well as white RFID tags to producers.
 - e. We will be working with other states and USDA personnel to look for new efficiencies that could be developed between databases of different States, and also between State and Federal databases in regards to sharing the animal ID information in a timely and uniform manner.
 - f. CDA will continue to provide electronic white and orange tags through USDAs no-cost program while USDA continues distribution of those tags.
 - g. CDA will continue to provide activities to educate and provide information about the no-cost RFID program to veterinarians and producers. We will provide outreach programs and courses to inform producers and veterinarians about RFID technology and the benefits these devices can provide to livestock producers. This program will require producers who receive tags to report the application of those tags for our records (date, time, place, reason, etc.)

- h. CDA has in the past sent out Allflex LPR series RFID readers to producers and veterinarians, and will continue to do so as funding allows. We have sent Allflex AWR300 series readers to 75% of livestock markets in the state along with assisting markets who use SaleTime software to implement the VetModule in order to track EIDs.
3. EID Tracking
- a. Colorado currently has a system to record all No-Cost RFID tags that are distributed to accredited veterinarians, producers and livestock markets. Our Traceability Compliance Specialist works to maintain this database of distributed tags.
 - b. If necessary, the Traceability Compliance Specialist will perform AIMS queries for any tag that was distributed that is not recorded in the CDA tag database.
 - c. Colorado collects data on: premises/locations where livestock are kept; livestock that come into Colorado via import permits and CVIs and go out of the state via export CVIs; livestock that are tested for federal program diseases such as brucellosis, equine infectious anemia (EIA), scrapie, tuberculosis, and bulls tested for the state trichomoniasis program; along with other reportable disease incidents and the official IDs needed for testing. Capture all official cattle identification into our CoreOne database that appears on movement documents, laboratory reports, vaccination submission forms, etc. This information is the foundation for good animal disease traceability.
 - d. CDA will continue to train or send personnel to training so that they are proficient in the use of SCS, SCS Scrapie, AINMS, Prem Allocator, VSPS, EMRS2, AHER, and CoreOne to access animal ID and premises information that is stored there.
 - e. CDA will continue to review and improve office processes with CoreOne to constantly look for ways to improve upon our ability to capture and share data with the greatest amount of efficiency.
4. Outreach for electronic ID and CVIs
- a. Colorado stopped distributing paper CVIs in January of 2024, while allowing veterinarians to continue to use paper CVIs that they had in stock. To date our export CVIs are 94% electronic.
 - b. Continue to educate and encourage Colorado veterinarians to use improved methods of logging and recording official animal ID tags that they have used in their producer's operations so that when we trace an official ID tag back to a veterinarian or clinic, they can quickly and efficiently inform us where those official ID tags were installed
 - c. We will identify veterinarians and livestock auction market veterinarians who need to bolster their animal ID record keeping through spot-checking those who are receiving official ID tags to see what type of log or index of animal ID tags installed and look at ways that we can provide customer support or options for a better method.
 - d. Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) to track non-compliance veterinarians and implement changes as needed to constantly look for ways

to improve upon our ability to capture data on non-compliance and help improve veterinarians with their animal disease traceability business practices.

- e. Report non-compliance issues to the Colorado Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) to be included in AVIC USDA reporting mechanisms
- f. Colorado assisted with the development of VET-CVI, an electronic CVI application. VET-CVI is also capable of recording Brucellosis vaccination and Tuberculosis test charts and automatically submits these to the state. These features allow for official identification RFID tags to be easily scanned into the test/vaccination charts as well as CVIs and assures these official IDs are easily searchable in our database. CDA has released this application to veterinarians and uses non-compliance issues as one way to suggest Colorado veterinarians use the application as well as has discussed this application at stakeholder meetings.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

The USDA/APHIS establishes Trace Performance Measures (TPMs) with which to assess the procedures that are in place to perform a real life animal trace for each state. These TPMs set up a framework of exercises to measure the amount of time it takes to locate information related to an animal of interest. Each state is categorized according to the size of the cattle industry in that particular state, and assigned a number of exercises in each of four different categories (below). Colorado is considered to have a large cattle industry and therefore is in one of the highest number categories of TPMs exercises to complete in each of the categories. Animal identification and livestock movement information is supplied to the state officials and the time to follow the animal trace to completion is recorded for each state.

The four types of TPMs are as follows:

TPM 1: In what State was an imported animal officially identified?

TPM 2: Where in your State was the animal officially identified?

TPM 3: From what State was an animal shipped?

TPM 4: From what location in your State was an exported animal?

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has used these TPMs as a basis for the Division's performance measures in the CDA Performance Plan and has served as an integral part of our overall Division's goals.

We strive to complete the required number of TPM exercises in less than 0.25 hours per exercise. We also complete real life traces and report those quarterly. All of the NPTs are currently recorded using the USDA/APHIS database of EMRS2 and Colorado maintains a certain number of staff that is proficient in the use of EMRS2 and will continue using EMRS2 to record all TPM data. In addition, we will also notify and inform all USDA Veterinary Services – District 3, personnel and CDA staff and field personnel on the results of the trace performance measure exercises in order to educate them on our current achievements and create awareness for future trace exercises. We also aim to keep all field

VMOs, animal health technicians (AHTs), and CDA field staff involved in ADT activities in the State as it takes buy-in at all levels to assist our accredited veterinarians, livestock markets, and livestock producers in reaching our goals for ADT. By informing the VMOs and AHTs what we are doing well and what we need to improve upon, we enhance all aspects of ADT and TPM reporting with the State.

4.4 Data requirements

We have the goal of keeping at least three staff members with access and proficiency to search for official animal ID and animal movement data located in the following nine databases: AIMS, SCS, SCS-Scrapie, EMRS2, VSPS, IMI Global, GVL, CoreOne. These are all databases that could be searched to find an animal of interest during a real-world trace-out scenario. This level of proficiency in multiple databases gives us the most rapid response possible in both real-world traces and NPTs.

This level of administration and reporting on official animal identification has helped us to highly value our objectives in increasing the number of electronic animal IDs in our database. We have set as a high priority the intention “to enter all animal ID data from CVIs, laboratory accessions, and other paper forms that contain animal ID into the database.” CDA will continue that objective and also will work with TraceFirst, the vendor for CoreOne, to enhance traceability capabilities of the stated programs.

By providing for the increased ease of uploading animal IDs, we are able to provide better animal disease traceability along with a marked increase in accuracy of the ID numbers due to fewer manual transcriptional errors. To this end, CDA strives to continue to educate veterinarians and producers on the value of electronic official animal ID to their business models, with the benefit of increasing animal disease traceability. The Division will continue to offer no-cost EID tags, as allocated through USDA, to veterinarians who want to upgrade and use these tags for their clients’ livestock as well as for producers. We will continue to encourage and promote these electronic ID tags in young breeding cattle as these cattle usually end up as part of the “breeding herd” and is an excellent way to provide for the “bookend” approach to livestock traceability. Allocations of these tags are maintained in our database. Also, we have worked with many of the veterinarians who are using electronic CVIs to help them in migrating official animal ID tag numbers right on to the CVI so that all of those tag numbers are imported into our database with the certificate.

CDA took the lead in designing and funding the creation of an electronic CVI (VET-CVI) application that will allow the creation and sharing of CVIs for veterinarians. VET-CVI has launched for veterinarian use and has 652 users. Currently, CDA staff members are developing outreach and education programs to demonstrate the benefits and highlights of VET-CVI to accredited veterinarians in the state. VET-CVI is being included in presentations at stakeholder meetings as well as being discussed with veterinarians during non-compliance outreach.

Official identification devices can run the gamut of sizes and shapes, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture has control over the distribution of three types; RFID Official

Calfhood Vaccinate (or OCV) ear tags, RFID white tags, metal National Uniform Ear tagging System (or NUES) ear tags for use in non-bovine species. These are to be distributed by the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL), a part of the Division of Laboratory Services at CDA. We are able to track the EID buttons and metal tags distributions to the veterinarians and producers that order them through CoreOne.

Additionally, official identification devices are sold through various tag manufacturing companies to Colorado producers directly, and this information is reported to the Animal ID Number Manager (AIMS) database through SCS and SCS- Scrapie. CDA currently has three staff members that are trained and proficient in searching these and other databases for information on official animal ID and specific animals of interest.

4.5 Information technology plan

Colorado will continue to educate and encourage Colorado veterinarians on technology use in clinical practice. We plan to continue providing technology seminars throughout the state as a way to network with veterinarians and educate them on how to use wand readers, electronic documentations for CVIs, vaccination charts and testing. Colorado will continue to support Vet-CVI as an eCVI program that is free to Colorado veterinarians. Vet-CVI also provides electronic records for a brucellosis vaccination chart and a TB test chart. We have three staff members that are knowledgeable on the use of MIM for TB testing charts and submissions.

Colorado will continue outreach to veterinarians to switch them over to electronic form submission. Increasing the use of electronic records in all aspects of ADT is a primary goal of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. By continuing to increase the use of electronic CVIs with our accredited veterinarians, we help to make this data more searchable and accurate within our database. This helps us to have electronic records of livestock premises, animal IDs, and livestock movement information.

We are increasing the use of electronic records by working closely with the USDA/APHIS VS to facilitate electronic options for any traceability requirements in which it may be possible to use electronic submission options. Those electronic formats of data are much easier to share and/or trace than traditional data from paper forms or submissions.

The CDA field staff and traceability specialists will continue to receive training and offer assistance to veterinarians looking to improve technology use in the fields.

100% of Colorado's markets use electronic CVIs for movement requiring CVIs out of markets. Our division is looking to improve infrastructure within markets to collect animal sightings in markets. To achieve this we plan to survey markets for need and participation to establish what they need to increase surveillance and continue to achieve compliance with state and federal regulations. Colorado will continue to pursue additional funding to support the infrastructure needed in these markets to achieve improved traceability data.

4.6 Resource requirements

1. CDA has a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which includes contingencies for database management. The COOP is managed by our Emergency Manager and is exercised 1-2 times per year.
2. Continued resources are needed to support existing system maintenance and improvement such as that for our CoreOne and VETCVI programs.
3. Further resources are needed to continue to be able to provide livestock markets with technology.

4.7 Organizational needs

CDA Animal Health division currently has a full time Traceability Specialist and a full time Program Veterinarian dedicated to ADT processes and enforcement. The Colorado Department of Agriculture created the Foreign Animal Disease Strike team at the beginning of 2024. This team consists of members from across different divisions in the Department. They can be deployed to assist with disease incidents within the state. We can also leverage the Animal Health Divisions newsletter as well some industry stakeholder newsletters for communication purposes.

4.7.1 Executive support

Commissioner Greenberg is in full support of the Animal Health Division and works closely with the department. The Governor's Office and legislative members also have supported CDA's ADT initiatives, by providing additional ADT funding during the last legislative cycle.

The Department of Agriculture will likely receive a new Commissioner of Agriculture during the course of this ADT Road Map Plan; we do not anticipate any major change in support or communications with our executive offices. Our division provides a monthly newsletter which includes accomplishments, projects and alerts on testing directly to the commissioners office. The Colorado Department of Agriculture holds Town Hall meetings every other month.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

In Colorado, the Program Veterinarian and the Traceability Program Specialist oversee the state's animal disease traceability program. These two positions are involved with national meetings for animal disease traceability to stay current with regulations.

4.7.3 Policy

CDA's import standards match or exceed the standards set forth in 9CFR part 86. As part of our own 8CCR 1201-19 rule "Livestock Disease Control Rule" review within the state we ensure that our standards continue to meet updates and advance the ADT General Standards. 8CCR 1201-19 is reviewed and updated as needed every 5 years. Issues that require immediate action can be revised using an emergency rule change but still require stakeholder review and input.

4.7.4 Staffing

Currently CDA Animal Health Division has a Animal Disease Traceability Specialist and a Program Veterinarian that perform most of the ADT program.

- The entire Animal Health division works towards promoting ADT with CVI revision, data entry, and follow up.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

ADT cooperative agreement funding predominantly supports the salary for one traceability program specialist (95% of that salary and fringe benefits). The remainder of the funding goes towards monthly cell phone service for the program specialist and a portion of the annual maintenance cost of the CoreOne database. The remainder of the salary is provided by the Umbrella cooperative agreement. No additional funds are provided by the state or other outside agencies for these salaries.

As mentioned above, CDA had a legislative and budget request last year, which was supported by the Governor's office and legislature, to increase CDA's funding for ADT. This allowed us to move the traceability veterinarian (Program Veterinarian) to general fund and Ag Management funding from the state.

Years two and three of this roadmap, salaries are projected to increase by a minimum of 3%, which will deplete the budget amounts available for cell phone service and CoreOne maintenance.

Due to the salary, fringe and indirect cost increases over the next three years, cost sharing will need to be utilized. Without funding increases from USDA APHIS, Colorado will use funds from our operating budget provided by the state of Colorado. This will also be the course of action should there be budget cuts or other shortfalls.

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

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

An important part of ADT education and outreach is staying engaged with our Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) here in Colorado. These veterinarians have a front line role in disease outbreak investigations and traces and are the first point of contact for accredited veterinarians in many disease outbreak scenarios. Having each of them on board and engaged with ADT within their geographic area is critical to the efforts of education and outreach as they have experience with the producers in their area. In addition, they have built good working relationships with the livestock markets and market veterinarians in their area.

CDA continues to assist the USDA Veterinary Services efforts in the accreditation of veterinarians that are new to our state, as well as the veterinary students at Colorado State University. Assisting with these accreditation modules, whether it is with the content or with the actual course, gives us a chance to contact these veterinarians in a face to face manner and begin a professional relationship on the right foot. It is also the perfect opportunity to educate them on the currently available options for electronic CVIs and animal ID; showing them the benefits that RFID tags can have for themselves as well as their clients, the livestock producers, and markets.

In addition, we have worked with the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's field staff to move them forward in the use of electronic animal IDs and the use of electronic CVIs. By doing so, we also are educating a whole new group of future veterinarians about the increased capabilities of livestock traceability. Our Division staff also has the opportunity to present animal disease traceability presentations during their course work at the CSU veterinary school. Many of these future veterinarians will graduate and be employed in a veterinary clinic where they will teach the older generation of veterinarians how electronic animal ID can be used, how it can improve their practice methods, and how to implement the use of electronic CVIs. We plan to continue to bring the new technology of electronic CVIs to the veterinary students at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital as a way to make ready the new wave of veterinarians that will help institute change among the veterinary profession. In addition, we will continue to keep traceability education and outreach as a priority and seek opportunities to further animal disease traceability in Colorado and across the nation.

CDA works with Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) directly to help disseminate information to veterinarians working throughout Colorado and keep them apprised of any changes in animal identification.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will continue to do outreach as part of the USDA Approved Slaughter Plant inspection program, with a minimum of annual visits to all slaughter plants and quarterly for APHIS approved plants, as part of the Blood Tissue Collection program.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will continue to build relationships with livestock producers, livestock market owners and managers, accredited veterinarians, and other livestock affiliated groups in the state through traceability education and outreach. Attending

organizational meetings with these groups, such as Colorado Cattlemen’s Association, Colorado Livestock Association, Western Dairy Association, Dairy Farmers of America, CSU Extension meetings and field days, CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory board meetings, CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Colorado Veterinary Medical Association, Colorado Livestock Market Association, Governor’s Forum on Colorado Agriculture, and many other livestock-related meetings, presents tremendous networking opportunities and helps to build trusting relationships with key stakeholders.

CDA staff often makes presentations at many of those meetings and utilizes these events to assist stakeholders in animal disease traceability (ADT) education, including specific information on implementing new ways to use electronic official animal IDs or CVIs. From troubleshooting with a veterinarian about an electronic CVI issue to helping a market veterinarian understand the importance of record keeping requirements as described in the ADT rule, we are always available to these stakeholders. Keeping their needs in mind, knowing how those needs are affected by the ADT rule, and how compliance can integrate best with their business model has helped to build a trusting relationship with the state’s stakeholders.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Colorado depends on individuals to use certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) for the majority of movements interstate. Colorado is a leader in the nation for moving towards electronic CVIs. We have eliminated distribution of paper CVIs in our state since January 2024 and we are a founding member of a State Only ADT group that is working towards increasing eCVI documentation across the nation. eCVIs would allow movement documents to be provided to State Animal Health officials instantaneously, allowing for instantaneous traceability. All interstate documents are stored in our database. Our team leaves international movements in the federal database VSPS, and we have three staff members trained in traces through all the databases. Movements that do not require CVIs (e.g. to federally inspected slaughter facilities and approved markets) can be traced at the market or slaughter facility in our state. All CVIs are reviewed by our administrative staff for valid information and movement requirements. We use spreadsheets and pivot tables to give us the numbers requested for those reports and reviews with USDA/APHIS. This also serves as a way to continue to track our own performance on retrieving traceability information, our performance on the NPTs, and our progress in our Division performance measures for the CDA Performance Plan. Colorado is looking for ways to secure additional funding to implement panel readers into approved markets and federally inspected slaughter facilities to be able to transmit official ID sightings back to our office for improved traceabilities.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

1. Continue to educate veterinarians and producers on the value of electronic official animal ID to their own business models, with the benefit of increasing animal disease traceability.
 - a. CDA will support ADT enforcement efforts with EID tags becoming the sole official identification devices available for cattle and bison.
2. The Division currently offers no-cost EID brucellosis tags & EID White Brite tags to veterinarians who want to use this option for their clients' livestock. With continued funding we will continue to offer the no-cost program to assist in EID tag promotion and advance traceability in Colorado cattle.
3. CDA will continue to provide activities to educate and provide information about the no-cost EID program to veterinarians and producers, provide outreach programs and courses to inform producers and veterinarians about EID technology and the benefits these devices can provide to livestock producers. This program requires veterinarians and producers who receive tags to report the application of those tags for our records (date, time, place, reason, etc.)
4. Continued work with veterinarians who are using electronic CVIs to help them in migrating official animal ID tag numbers onto the CVI so that all of those tag numbers automatically migrate into CoreOne.
5. CDA will continue to partner with other states and USDA personnel to look for new efficiencies that could be developed between databases of different States, and also between State and Federal databases in regards to sharing and migration of the animal ID information in a timely and uniform manner.
6. We plan to start a panel reader project collaborating with sale- barns and slaughter facilities in Colorado to capture EID sighting information. This will help with real time information of animal movements that do not have CVIs associated with them.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Accepting that each year's cooperative agreement work plan will likely be a collection of objectives, CDA will continue to work towards fulfilling the objectives outlined in that work plan, and will continue to modify and rank the above priorities for advancement, as listed above. These priorities will be ranked accordingly within the ADT work plan budget requirements and availability of CDA staff assigned to ADT duties.

Colorado objectives for the next three years include:

1. Increasing electronic documentation use for eCVIs, OCV vaccinations, and TB testing.

2. Enhance Education and Outreach for traceability by providing seminars and webinars to veterinarians and producers.
3. Increase traceability infrastructure by continuing to provide free programs for eCVIs, TB testing, and OCV vaccination forms. We also want to ensure all livestock barns have RFID wand readers.
4. Continue the premises verification project and continue to update premises information as time progresses.
5. Work towards increasing traceability infrastructure in markets. Working with markets to assess needs to continue to have traceability move at the speed of commerce and finding ways to meet the needs to accomplish that goal.