

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE –
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
INSPECTION SERVICE**

**Animal Disease Traceability Meeting,
Sacramento, CA, May 11, 2017**

[START MORNING SESSION PART 1]

MS. JAN GRIMES: Okay, I think we're going to go ahead and get started this morning. Do we have a couple more people in the hall, or are we ready to go? Okay. Good morning. Welcome to Sacramento, and to probably I think it's the sixth public meeting around ADT that we've had in the country. We are very happy to have folks here today. Our goal today is to learn from you, the different producers, ranchers, market managers, and animal health officials, about how ADT is working or not in the field for each of you. We are wanting to know what's worked well and why, what is still a challenge, and how might you all address suggest that we address some of those challenges.

Before we get too far into it, I'll introduce myself. My name is Jan Grimes, and I work for APHIS in the Riverdale, Maryland headquarters. I also have with me my colleague Steve Kidd, and we are here today not as any animal health specialists in any way, but as policy analysts. And we're - - by USDA to act as your host and walk you through the agenda and

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1
2 to help folks navigate the many, many topics
3 that we're sure you're going to want to talk
4 about today. We do have several people that, in
5 here that are extraordinarily talented animal
6 health people. You're going to be meeting most
7 of them this morning, or many of them this
8 morning.

9 I'd like to just kind of give a shout out to
10 Aaron Scott, who is our USDA veterinary services
11 manager. Yeah, and right back there, he is our
12 senior epidemiologist and plays a role in
13 oversight of ADT. And we also have Annette
14 Jones. Good morning, Annette. And she is the
15 state veterinarian for California, and we also
16 have other people here as well. So if you work
17 for CPFA or USDA or anything to do with ADT,
18 just raise your hand so the group that's here
19 can, and I asked them to do that, just so that
20 you realize that these folks really do care.
21 They've taken time out of their day to come and
22 listen and to learn and to help try to foster
23 the best system that we can as we move forward.
24 And so I just wanted to give a shout out to
25 them. But the most important participants are

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1 our guests today. And we realize that it's kind
2 of a bad time—springtime—producers are really
3 busy. There's branding; there's lots of things
4 going on. Unfortunately, the best laid plans—we
5 were hoping to have these meetings earlier in
6 the—way earlier in the year, but without a
7 Secretary of Agriculture and some of the things
8 at the top that you get with a transition,
9 things get kind of slowed down the pipeline.
10

11 So we recognize that May is kind of a tough
12 time, and that's why it's so important that we
13 thank you for making the time to come in today
14 and talk to us. So really, thank you. I just
15 want to go over the agenda briefly for today in
16 your—if you picked up a packet when you
17 registered, there's just a one-sheet agenda
18 that's blue and white. And I just want to
19 quickly touch on what our game plan is, but also
20 let you know that we intend to be very flexible
21 so that if we get a little off-course, but
22 there's good energy and we need to do that,
23 we'll do that. So the first part of this
24 morning is trying to get everyone on the same
25 page about where we have been with ADT, and what

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1 are some of the basic key components of it, just
2 as a refresher, so it kind of aligns us in our
3 discussions later throughout the day. Then we
4 would like to hear about how ADT is going so far
5 with our invited panelists. And these
6 individuals are going to be sharing their
7 personal experiences, how ADT impacts their
8 everyday work, and we will give you an
9 opportunity to ask them some questions directly
10 about their challenges. Then we hope to have a
11 short break, and then move into an open
12 microphone session. And that will be an
13 opportunity for you to share your thoughts
14 directly. It's an opportunity—if you want to
15 make a statement, that's fine. If you want to
16 ask clarifying questions of the folks here that
17 work on ADT every day, live and breathe it,
18 you'll have the opportunity to do that. And
19 then after that session is over, we're going to
20 hopefully break for lunch, and lunch is going to
21 be on your own. There are several restaurants;
22 I believe you cross, 50 is the road that are—
23 right out here there's a lot of fast food
24 options. There's also a restaurant about a

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1 block away, and there is in this hotel a
2 restaurant as well right outside the lobby when
3 you come into the lobby to the left. So there
4 are opportunities for you to sit down with your
5 colleagues or your peers and chat and get to
6 know each other in that way as well. And lunch
7 will be in about an hour, hour and fifteen
8 minutes or so.

10 Where the real work will begin hopefully is
11 in the afternoon where we break. We're going to
12 break up the group into some smaller work
13 sessions. And what we'd like to do is throw out
14 several topic areas—categories of topics that
15 seem to come up, and have you all in smaller
16 groups talk about well, how could that work for
17 us better, or what are the nuances of some of
18 those issues that have been raised or perhaps we
19 haven't really characterized those challenges
20 quite right, and you'd like to give us insight
21 about the best way, or really what's going on.
22 So that'll be an opportunity. We're going to
23 have note takers in those groups, and we are
24 also having facilitators. So we're going to try
25 to capture the good conversation that you've

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1 had. And then at the last part of the day we're
2 going to ask you all to come back and share what
3 you discovered in your smaller groups. It's
4 going to be—it's usually very helpful for you to
5 work in smaller groups and then come back. And
6 we've always had people walk away with, "Oh, I
7 didn't realize that was an issue for this
8 group." So it's important to come back and
9 share together. So that will be the bulk of the
10 day—that's our big plan. We may not always
11 follow it to the T, but we just want to make
12 sure that you know what you've signed up for
13 today. Also when you registered, you should
14 have grabbed a folder with a packet, and that
15 has the agenda. It has all of the slides that
16 you're going to see about the basics about the
17 animal disease traceability system and the
18 assessment work that's been done. There's also
19 a handout that—sort of a thumbnail sketch of the
20 federal animal disease traceability
21 requirements, and there are the breakout—the
22 smaller group breakout questions, so you can
23 kind of preview what you might be discussing
24 later on. Also on your table, there's little

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1 notepads, note pens, which are very nice pens,
2 by the way, I think. There are index cards if
3 you want. If somebody says something that
4 you're like, "Oh, that's an interesting point,"
5 but you don't want to interrupt them, write it
6 down, and then when you have the opportunity to
7 either meet with that person one-on-one or come
8 up to the microphone, use those. If we haven't
9 had this, but if someone is a particularly
10 strong introvert, and they don't want to go up
11 to a microphone or would not like to ask their
12 question publicly, but they want an answer, just
13 give it to Steve, or I will collect them, and
14 we'll read them out, and then have folks discuss
15 the answers to that. So if you're an introvert,
16 and you care to handle it that way, we're happy
17 to accommodate you that way. So again, I said
18 lunch is going to be on our own. Restrooms are
19 just out here to the door--basic housekeeping.
20 If there would be some kind of emergency,
21 although there are exit signs over here, we--that
22 takes you to the inner parts of the hotel.
23 These two doors would be the best way to go out.
24 We don't want anybody getting caught in the
25

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1 kitchen or something like that. So this side is
2 the side that will get you out. Please,
3 cellphones on vibrate. That would be useful.
4 And I think that's it. So I think the first
5 order of business is, we're going to have some
6 welcoming remarks, and Annette, I think you're
7 up. So thank you.

9 DR. ANNETTE JONES: Good morning, and thank
10 you for coming. Thank USDA for coming to
11 California. If any of you are concerned that
12 this room is not packed, I'm not in the least
13 bit concerned, because couple things, number
14 one, in California I guarantee that animal
15 disease traceability is not the biggest thing
16 that weighs on our producers' minds. They've
17 got methane reduction, they've got—their list is
18 long; they've got labor issues. So they have a
19 lot of issues that they're dealing with. But
20 the right people are in this room, and I think
21 it's important that, you know, California, we
22 produce more agricultural products than any
23 state in the nation. And when USDA, an agency
24 that listens, comes to us and asks us for our
25 opinion, like they have, I think it's really

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1 important that the few of you that are here have
2 come representing your peers back at home. And
3 so I really appreciate it, and I'm really—I like
4 the faces that I see in the audience, because I
5 know USDA will get some good input as they move
6 forward on traceability. So thank you for being
7 here. And then the last thing I want to say is,
8 as hopefully all of you have peeked in, we're
9 just starting our outreach, but hopefully most
10 of you know, California just published our
11 updated animal identification and traceability
12 regulations that went into effect April 1st, and
13 we'd be happy to hear comments as we start to
14 move forward on implementing those. For the
15 most part, they align with the federal animal
16 disease traceability program; we basically
17 adopted a lot of it as a state rule. But we
18 also had some additional components. But today
19 we're really not here to talk about the state
20 rule. We're here to talk about the federal
21 rule. So as always, we'll hear about the state
22 role also, but if you could—you know, maybe
23 we'll just take those thoughts aside in the
24 hallway or later you can provide that feedback

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1 for that. So really, that's all I want to say.
2 Oh, one more other comment. I think you guys
3 might find that here we're going to be very
4 efficient today, and my guess is we may even be
5 able to compress our timeline a little bit,
6 because I think we have the right people in the
7 room. We're going to get really to the heart of
8 the matter and move through the process pretty
9 fast, which I don't think anyone would complain
10 about that, as we all have other jobs to do as
11 well, so with that...

12 [Applause]

13 DR. AARON SCOTT: Welcome everyone, and
14 thank you, Dr. Jones. I am Aaron Scott. I work
15 for USDA and Veterinary Services. I have worn
16 many, many hats in this industry. The biggest
17 chunk of it was on a cattle ranch in Colorado,
18 and the next biggest piece was in private
19 practice. After that, I have been an
20 epidemiologist in USDA responding to a number of
21 disease outbreaks, and I was a senior manager
22 over some of our programs. Really glad to see
23 you folks here, and just want to make a couple
24 points, and then we'll get into some

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1 discussions.

2
3 We've heard a lot—we've met with folks that,
4 across the country it seems like we've been
5 moving west, and next we'll go back to the
6 mountain regions a little bit more. We've heard
7 some strong messages from folks, and a few
8 things that I wanted to point out, key points.
9 You'll hear more from Sunny and Neil in the
10 presentations and data and information about the
11 rule - - passed in 2013 and how effective it was
12 and gaps and places where it may need to be some
13 improvement. There's a couple things to
14 remember though. One is that USDA is not
15 writing another rule right now. If that needs
16 to happen, then we will address that later, and
17 there'll be other opportunities for discussion
18 and so forth. Right now we're here to listen.
19 In Denver, I visited with a fellow from a small
20 town in Wyoming, and I was kind of concerned.
21 He's a small cattleman. His name is Les. And I
22 visited with Les for a while, and he says, "Dr.
23 Scott," he says, "I'm really passionate about
24 this," about opinions and what he had to voice,
25 and he says, "Most of my neighbors stayed home,

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1 because they were busy, and they didn't think
2 that it would matter what they said." And I
3 said, "Les, I care what you say. I guarantee I
4 care," and I took notes on when he had his open
5 mic session. I have those notes on my computer
6 along with notes from a lot of other folks. I
7 think all of us here care very much. We hear
8 lots of different messages from folks that I'm
9 sure not everybody, whatever the outcome is,
10 will be happy. But it's really important to
11 hear those voices as Annette said just a minute
12 ago. It takes time out of the day to come and
13 do this sort of thing, but this, in America,
14 this is democracy, I think that is maybe not its
15 best, but the best that we have where we can
16 listen to people and hear what needs are and
17 what needs to be done. The second point that I
18 want to make is that again, this isn't about
19 writing a regulation or rule. This is about
20 protecting our industry. And another
21 conversation with a--this is also in Denver; I
22 guess I heard more in Denver than some of the
23 other places--this fellow was also from Wyoming,
24 and he kept asking the question, he says,

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1 "What's USDA want to do? What's your agenda?
2 What's your goal?" And finally I answered him
3 and said, I said, "USDA wants to protect the
4 industry; that's our goal. That's what we're
5 here for. Traceability is a way to do that, is
6 a tool. But the goal isn't traceability. The
7 goal is protecting the industry." And he said,
8 "So, full traceability is the best way that you
9 can protect the industry?" And I said, "Yeah,
10 yeah, that's right. But we want to not only
11 protect the industry, but balance that with the
12 needs of the industry," and that's why we're
13 here to listen.

15 So two points guys: we're here to listen;
16 and we want to hear your thoughts and your
17 ideas. We want to protect the industry from
18 some of the diseases, and you'll hear more about
19 diseases in a few minutes, about ones that we
20 were, things we were able to trace, TB herds we
21 were able to find and TB herds that are out
22 there still somewhere. So you'll hear about
23 that. But mostly we want to hear what you have
24 to say, and if you have solutions to problems of
25 animal diseases, and I guess I would call them

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1 the industry-buster diseases. In private
2 practice, we see a lot of things every day, and
3 those are certainly things that private
4 veterinarians can manage. There are some that
5 can't. There are some diseases that have the
6 potential to wipe out our industry, and those
7 are the ones that we're interested in talking
8 about today. So thank you all for being here,
9 and I look forward to hearing some good
10 discussions. As I told Les, I want to hear what
11 you have to say. It doesn't really matter what
12 position you have on it, where your stance is.
13 We're here to hear what you have to say, and
14 whatever kind of rulemaking or changes take
15 place if any will take place later, and there'll
16 be a venue for discussions and input on those as
17 the time comes back. So, thank you all, and
18 let's carry on.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. GRIMES: So I'd like to bring Neil to
21 come up, and he's going to go over the basic
22 principles and align us, and then we're going to
23 hear from Sunny about the assessment.

24 MR. NEIL HAMMERSCHMIDT: Well good morning,

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1 thanks Jan. I don't want to spend a lot of time
2 going over old business, but I thought it would
3 be good to do a quick overview of how we set up
4 ADT when we had similar discussions starting
5 back in 2010 with the industry stakeholders.
6 Today's meeting of course within ADT we're
7 focused primarily on cattle and bison. It
8 certainly cover other species, but initially the
9 emphasis was on cattle, and we want to follow up
10 on cattle and some of the other species—sheep
11 and goats for example—traceability issues that
12 are addressed in specific disease programs, such
13 as scrapie and - -. We want to review the—or I
14 want to review the regulation briefly, and then
15 Sunny, as Jan said, will do a report on the
16 assessment that was done that looks at the first
17 three, four years of the program to reflect what
18 we've accomplished and maybe what some
19 additional improvements can be made.

21 When we started ADT, we agreed we wanted to
22 expand, and to maintain and expand the
23 infrastructure that had been developed over
24 many, many years - - disease eradication
25 programs. More emphasis was put on ADT in

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1 regards to it being administered more locally at
2 the state and tribal level. We're as concerned
3 about cost, and that was one of the driving
4 issues that directed us to look at what we refer
5 to as low-cost technology, but we're certainly
6 open to discussions on that today. But I think
7 most importantly, we wanted to focus on a basic
8 system, making sure that as we develop
9 traceability, we build a strong foundation
10 system; one that can be expanded upon as we see
11 fit to do so. We call it a bookend system,
12 because we want to trace back to when the animal
13 was originally tagged and also capture its ID at
14 termination to slaughter plant and so forth. I
15 think it was our thoughts that the bookend
16 system would get us that closer to the birth
17 premises. I think we're finding that in many
18 cases, that is not being achieved, and we're
19 wanting to have some discussions in that regard
20 about getting ID achieved at that first bookend
21 more closely to the birth premises if possible.
22 So the rule was published in January 2013.
23 While we focused on interstate movements—and
24 interstate movement is not considered to be part

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1 of the rule if the animals travel within a
2 reservation that crosses a state boundary, and
3 also movements to a custom slaughter facility
4 for one's own animals is not covered by the
5 regulation itself. Two primary components of
6 ADT regulation—of course, official
7 identification and movement documentation, - -
8 specifically the Interstate Certificate of
9 Veterinary Inspection. While these seem like
10 very basic components, it's not just the tagging
11 of the animal itself, but it's the records that
12 go along with that ID, the proper administration
13 of distribution of tags, the records where tags
14 went, possibly where they're applied. It's very
15 critical to traceability if that animal—or if
16 you don't have the information on the tag
17 aligning it to the premises, we really haven't
18 achieved much. So in Sunny's report, I think we
19 can show how we evaluated our capability in
20 regards to the proper administration of these
21 two components of traceability. Fish
22 identification is defined by species; what works
23 for cattle obviously might not work for equine
24 for example, so the official identification
25

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1 methods are species-specific. One of the
2 important things that I think we said when we
3 established ADT, we said if this official ID is
4 good in California, that same official ID should
5 be good in New York. So we have a national
6 standard in that regards to what is an official
7 identification method. For example, an ear tag
8 for cattle. This I think helps emphasize to
9 producers that you can tag that calf at a young
10 age; you might not sell it for two years, and
11 you don't have any idea where it might go—that
12 tag will be recognized by any state across the
13 country as an official method of ID.
14 Additionally the receiving state cannot require
15 a specific method. I use Michigan as an
16 example; while they have an ID, RFID requirement
17 for cattle moving within the state of Michigan,
18 they cannot require RFID for cattle coming into
19 Michigan. After the animal arrives in Michigan,
20 then their state regulation applies. Then we
21 want to talk about cattle and bison today. It's
22 a real quick—the official identification methods
23 that are accepted for cattle, primarily an
24 official ear tag, where I think addresses the
25

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1 high majority of the cases where official
2 identification is needed, but we've also
3 stipulated that when the shipping state and
4 receiving state agree on for example, a
5 registered brand with an official brand
6 certificate—that's considered official. But
7 both the shipping state and the receiving state
8 have to agree on that brand certificate.
9
10 Tattoos and other ID methods acceptable for
11 breed registrations are acceptable. This is
12 some of the flexibility that we intentionally
13 put in the rule, based on the feedback from
14 stakeholders that we wanted to build in that
15 opportunity for states to make some of those
16 choices at the local level. While group-wide
17 identification is referenced as an official
18 method, it's certainly most applicable in the
19 poultry and the swine industry. Real quick—
20 official ear tags that are tamper-evident—if you
21 move a tag from one animal to another, most
22 likely an inspection of that tag would show that
23 it's been manipulated or worked with to allow
24 that movement from one animal to another. Most
25 importantly the U.S. emblem on the tag—we call

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1 it the official ear tag shield. While early on
2 there was a transition where we accepted some
3 tags without the official—they didn't have the
4 U.S. shield on them, today, unless you have an
5 older animal that would have been tagged before
6 2015, the tag would require the official ear tag
7 shield to be recognized as official. I think
8 this has helped minimize some of the confusion.
9 We used to get a lot of calls on, "Is this an
10 official ear tag?" For a younger animal, if it
11 doesn't have the shield on it, it's not
12 official. We've also minimized the number of
13 different animal numbering systems. We still
14 have the National Uniform Ear-tagging System,
15 NUES, prefixed by the state code, two alphabet
16 characters, and four digits. What's commonly
17 used of course on visual-only tags, especially
18 the metal clip tags that have historically been
19 used for many, many years. My point is, old as
20 wide as it's used is the Animal Identification
21 Number, quote, referenced here as the 840
22 number, most specifically designed for radio
23 frequency identification tags based on an
24 international standard. So there is

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1 compatibility not only in the United States, but
2 across the entire world with an 840 number.

3 While I reference - - there's a number that most
4 commonly is used for radio frequency, there are
5 a small percentage of - - ear tags that are
6 visual only. But certainly most commonly
7 practiced is the 840 tag option that is RFID.

8 Based on distribution trends the last couple of
9 years, there's about half the tags, official
10 tags being distributed that are the NUES version
11 and the other half is AIN. So certainly the
12 increase in the number of tags has been
13 accomplished more so on the electronic side of
14 the equation versus visual. So when is official
15 ID needed? All sexually intact cattle and bison
16 18 months of age and over, all dairy at this
17 point in time, and cattle and bison of any age
18 used for rodeo and recreation events, shows, and
19 exhibitions. So of course, the beef sector,
20 under 18 months of age are exempt from the
21 official identification requirement. There's a
22 lot of exemptions that we deal with on ADT
23 specific to the official ID requirement. The
24 first one is probably rarely used, but it might
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1 have an operation that has the whole place in
2 Kansas or in Nevada or wherever, and I have
3 another part of my premises in the same state,
4 but to get there I pass through a different
5 state—that is not considered an interstate
6 movement or is exempt from official ID. We use
7 tagging sites a lot. I think every state in the
8 country has approved tagging sites, which allows
9 those entities to receive cattle untagged, but
10 they're tagged on behalf of the consigner or the
11 person responsible for those movements.
12

13 Certainly the markets are most commonly tagging
14 sites, but it's not limited to markets. But it
15 allows producers to have their animals tagged if
16 they can't tag the animals themselves. In the
17 option for states and tribes to use other
18 methods of identification, if a brand state is
19 working with another brand state, and they want
20 to use the brand specifically as the official
21 identification method, they both agree to do so,
22 it's that prerogative. And then the movements
23 directly to a recognized slaughter establishment
24 or directly to one approved market and then
25 directly to the approved, or the recognized

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1 slaughter plant. So basically cattle moved to
2 slaughter facilities or through one market are
3 exempt from official identification. I think
4 another part of the regulation that we want to
5 discuss today with you all, because there's some
6 feedback that maybe some of those cattle that
7 are noted for slaughter don't go directly to
8 slaughter. Maybe they're diverted. And there
9 is a need to discuss. Real quickly on the ICVI,
10 or Interstate Certificate of Veterinary
11 Inspection and while we make reference to as a
12 movement document, it really doesn't guarantee
13 or show that the animal is moved. They're
14 prepared to certify the health of the animal,
15 and because there's a high correlation with the
16 movement document, with the movement of those
17 animals, we agreed that we wouldn't put in a
18 requirement for yet another document to be used
19 when animals do move interstate. So we use that
20 Interstate Certificate of Inspection to highly
21 correlate to where animals move from and move
22 to. Certainly it wasn't a new document for ADT;
23 it's been in place for many, many years. If the
24 ICVI or other movement document is needed,
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1 unless moved directly to a slaughter plant or
2 through one approved market with an owner
3 shipper statement—OSS—owner shipper statement,
4 also movements direct to slaughter with an owner
5 shipper statement are exempt, to a vet clinic or
6 medical exam and then returned back to that
7 premises, commuter herds with a commuter herds
8 agreement can be exempt from ICVIs. And again,
9 with documentation other than an ICVI as agreed
10 upon by the state officials of the particular
11 receiving state. So again, the last bullet
12 provides a lot of flexibility that we all want
13 to be built into the ADT framework in the
14 beginning. While ICVIs have been around for a
15 long time, we did enhance the use of the
16 documents I think in ADT, because we defined
17 their required pieces of information that need
18 to be on the document, and we put a lot of
19 emphasis on proper completion of the ICVI with
20 accredited veterinarians. It's important to
21 note, while some movements of cattle require an
22 ICVI, the ID numbers—the official ID numbers for
23 certain movements do not need to be recorded on
24 the ICVI. Of course this includes cattle and
25

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1 bison moving to slaughter, steers or spayed
2 heifers. And then of course the sexually intact
3 bison and beef cattle under 18 months of age,
4 they're exempt from official ID - -. We
5 supplement the rule that FSIS has had on the
6 books for many years in regards to the
7 collection of all ID at slaughter—certainly
8 important—that if we find evidence of a disease
9 at slaughter, we want to be able to collect the
10 ID or have the ID collected and properly
11 correlated to that carcass to support proper
12 trace-back investigations. Having that rule on
13 our books within the regulation gives us a
14 little more clout within the slaughter plants
15 and so forth. There is a handout in your
16 document that describes some of the requirements
17 for the movements of cattle, in regards to the
18 federal requirements more specifically. It's
19 available in your handout. One of the comments
20 that I found interesting at one of our meetings—
21 one of the pages on your handout of this
22 document is a flow chart, and I thought it was a
23 great thing. But the person commenting on the
24 flow chart said, "If it's so complicated you've
25

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1 got to develop a flow chart, it's probably too
2 complicated." So taken from a different
3 perspective. So Sunny, it's up to you now to do
4 the assessment. Thanks.

6 DR. SUNNY GEISER-NOVOTNY: Good morning
7 everyone, and thanks for joining us today. And
8 for those of you who are multitasking, because I
9 see quite a few of you, there's a quiz before we
10 let you leave for lunch, so it's time to start
11 paying attention. As Neil mentioned, I'm going
12 to go over the assessment report that we
13 released a few weeks ago now on the
14 effectiveness of Part 86 animal disease
15 traceability to advance our tracing
16 capabilities. A couple of the parameters I'm
17 going to go over include trace performance
18 measures, and I'll explain to you what those
19 are, actual data related to TB traced-
20 tuberculosis traces specifically that we have
21 data on, and then also some feedback that we've
22 gotten from not only industry officials, but
23 also state animal health officials on what's
24 working and not working for all of you.

25 So from the beginning, traceability was set

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1 up as a performance-based program, and so the
2 state/federal working group that provided input
3 into the rule developed some parameters or
4 measures that we could utilize to not only
5 document progress in traceability and states'
6 tracing capabilities, but also where gaps might
7 be within that system. And the point of all
8 those is to ensure that we can implement actions
9 to improve our traceability systems. And as
10 Neil mentioned, the two basic components of the
11 traceability regulation include official
12 identification, movement documentation for
13 livestock moving interstate, and so the measures
14 specifically focus on those two caveats for each
15 measure that we identify.
16

17 So the traceability performance measures, or
18 TPMs, measure two specific factors. One is the
19 elapsed time it takes to answer four specific
20 questions. That time starts when the state
21 receives the official identification that we're
22 looking to trace, and it ends when they find
23 that information—movement documentation or where
24 it was tagged to answer those questions.

25 So for the first one, in what state was an

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1 imported animal officially identified, this
2 specifically measures those AIN numbers or
3 numbering system that Neil was talking about, so
4 not specifically a state system, but rather a
5 federal database that indicates distribution of
6 animal identification numbers. And so this
7 would be—so for California, they might have an
8 840 number that they're looking to trace; they
9 would identify that that—they would look into
10 the database and see that that animal was tagged
11 in Washington, so that would answer question
12 number one. Two is specific to the state's own
13 database for where tags were distributed or
14 applied, so where in your state was the animal
15 officially identified? Number three, from what
16 state was an animal shipped? So this commonly
17 goes with number one, so you might have had an
18 animal tagged in Washington that moved into
19 California; did it move to California from
20 Washington, or did it go to another state first,
21 and then we shipped it to, into California?

22
23 And then four typically goes with number
24 two—from what location in your state was an
25 exported animal shipped? So did it move out

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1 from a livestock market or from a producer's
2 premises? Where was that export address? And
3 then the second factor is the percent of
4 successfully completed TPMs, and so how often
5 are we successful at finding the information
6 we're looking for? So when you think about what
7 we measure, including the elapsed time and the
8 percent successfully completed, you can see that
9 the key to successful traceability is timely
10 retrieval of complete and accurate information.
11 So how can we find it if we need to find it, and
12 how fast can we find it? This is one of our
13 favorite slides for the program. On the left-
14 hand side you'll see a person--this is from the
15 State of Colorado--that's a year's worth of
16 import and export CVIs that they're looking
17 through to try to find the one animal they need
18 to find. So when you consider the time and
19 resources it takes to do that versus the right-
20 hand side of the slide where a person is typing
21 that number into a database and can retrieve the
22 information if it's there within seconds, that's
23 a really important advantage that we have under
24 the current system. Our records have--our

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1 electronic records specifically, but just in
2 general our records have increased dramatically
3 over time, and we're a lot more successful than
4 we were in the past. So when these measure were
5 implemented, when the rule was published, we set
6 the national baseline for each of those
7 activities one through four. And so under the
8 cooperative agreements that we have with the
9 state, each successive cooperative agreement
10 period has generated additional comparison year
11 data for those measures. And so 2013 was the
12 first national baseline, 2014 cooperative
13 agreement period was the first comparison year,
14 '15 was the second comparison year. We just
15 finished up our '16 cooperative agreement
16 period, so those records will be available
17 shortly, and we'll have more date for the third
18 year comparison.
19

20 So I know this slide is a little bit busy,
21 but it basically shows the summary of not only
22 the first and second year comparisons against
23 the national baseline. So on the left-hand
24 side, the first column that you see are those
25 activities one through four, and then each

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1 successive column is the national baseline first
2 year comparison, second year comparison, with
3 the values for percent successful and elapsed
4 time for each of those years. For number one,
5 again, that measures the animal identification
6 numbering system, management system, and we
7 didn't have enough records that first year in
8 that system for-to have a national baseline off
9 of those, so that's why it says not applicable.
10 But what I want you to see without going through
11 each number specifically is that we went from
12 about 60% to 76% successful in the national
13 baseline years to over 80% and in some cases 90%
14 successful for finding that information related
15 to each parameter. So a huge increase in the
16 ability to find that information that we're
17 looking for. The other important thing to
18 notice is under the national baseline for
19 elapsed time, you can see that we average from 4
20 to 11 days to find that information. And when
21 you consider that this is only part of the
22 trace, right, it's not necessarily every piece
23 of information you need when you're doing a
24 trace-back investigation, 11 days is a long time
25

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1 to find one piece of information. But we
2 reduced that time period from 4 to 11 days down
3 to 1 to 2 days on average for the first and
4 second year comparison. So substantial
5 reduction in the elapsed time it takes to find
6 that piece of information.
7

8 This slide represents TB traces, or
9 tuberculosis traces from slaughter, and so FSIS
10 is responsible for inspecting carcasses at
11 slaughter. If anything looks like it might be
12 suspicious for TB, they collect samples. And as
13 Neil mentioned, they are to collect the
14 identification on that animal to correlate with
15 the lesion that they send in for testing in our
16 lab. And so what this represents is 38 cases
17 from 2010, so before the rule was published, to
18 the end of September of 2016, so the end of our
19 '16 fiscal year—what types of identification-
20 confirmed TB cases came into slaughter with. So
21 in the first column you'll see unofficial
22 identification, no identification, official
23 identification, and then the total. And then
24 across the top you'll see the total cases by
25 identification type, and whether or not we were

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1 successful at tracing those animals. Traced
2 indirectly means that we were able to locate the
3 herd of origin for that animal because of
4 another animal it came in with. So a cohort in
5 the lot had official identification or had
6 sufficient records for us to be able to trace
7 that animal. So it's hard to know if we would
8 have found them without the other animal or
9 animals in their lot, but we indicate that they
10 were traced successfully. So again, we had 38
11 cases in that timeframe; 20 of them were in
12 feeders, 18 were in dairy cattle or adult dairy
13 cattle. 12 came in with unofficial
14 identification, 14 with no identification, and
15 12 with official identification.

17 And what's important to notice in this slide
18 is that every animal with official
19 identification was able to be traced
20 successfully. So we can still trace animals
21 with unofficial identification or even in some
22 cases with no identification, but official
23 identification, across the board we're able to
24 find those animals. And what's important to
25 note here too is, if you look at those we were

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1 unable to trace, two with unofficial
2 identification and four with no identification—
3 those are infected herds out there we didn't
4 find. We couldn't find that premises of origin.
5 So that's important to note. And just a little
6 bit more information on that, so after the rule
7 was published, there were five dairy animals
8 that ID was required for at slaughter—or there
9 were five dairy animals—two out of five were
10 required to have ID that didn't have ID. So two
11 out of five were non-compliant. And three out
12 of those five animals were exempt, because they
13 moved intrastate or moved direct to slaughter
14 across state lines, so they're exempt under the
15 current framework. So because they didn't have
16 official ID, they might not have been traced or
17 weren't traced, and that's just a part of the
18 flexibility that we built into the regulation,
19 but also a gap.

20
21 So how are we doing? If you consider the
22 program in the context of that really flexible
23 framework that we set up, so official
24 identification and movement documentation for
25 animals moving interstate, we've increased our

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1 ability to find that information dramatically,
2 and it's worked really well. However, as I
3 mentioned with the flexibilities, and Neil
4 brought a bunch of those up as well, the
5 flexibilities have made it difficult to be able
6 to trace animals the way that we need to or want
7 to. And so significant gaps still exist within
8 the current framework.
9

10 So what are the challenges that we've
11 identified? So again, part of what we started
12 to do is conduct outreach and get feedback from
13 not only industry, but also our state partners
14 to say what's working well and what's not
15 working well for all of you. And the biggest
16 gap that we've identified through that outreach
17 is that official ID requirement is limited to
18 interstate movement. And so when you consider
19 that an animal can move multiple times within
20 the state or never cross state lines, and then
21 fall under the current framework of needing
22 official ID or movement documentation, there's a
23 potential for disease to spread, and records may
24 or may not exist. If they don't need an ID, and
25 they don't need movement documentation, there's

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1 nothing to trace. And then we've run into
2 situations where how do you trace a black animal
3 with no identification? So it can be
4 challenging. The flexibilities that we brought
5 up before and some of those relate to whether
6 official ID is needed or whether breed
7 registrations or tattoos can be utilized, but
8 then also exemptions for if they're moving
9 direct to slaughter or when they cross state
10 lines. They make it confusing. The flow chart
11 that Neil mentioned—when you have to read the
12 rule ten times to understand as a state or
13 federal animal health official, how do we expect
14 the industry to know what they have to do to
15 comply with this regulation? And it also makes
16 it difficult for us to monitor and enforce
17 compliance, and so livestock markets are a great
18 example, because you have an animal that comes
19 in—did it move interstate? Did it just move
20 intrastate? Does it need official ID? Can it
21 move on back tag? Is it going direct to
22 slaughter? And does it need an ICVI? Does it
23 have to be listed on a CVI? It's really
24 confusing. And again if you go back to the fact

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1 that if you don't know what the movements of the
2 animal have been, and it doesn't have official
3 ID or movement document, how do you know if it
4 moved interstate or not? If there's no record
5 there, you don't know what happened.
6

7 The second challenge we identified is
8 reliance on visual-only technology. As Neil
9 mentioned, those are those NUES tags, the Brite
10 tags, or OCD tags that we utilize for our
11 disease programs, and no one will argue that
12 those have been hugely successful within those
13 programs. They've definitely served a place in
14 our programs. But trying to read those tags at
15 the speed of commerce is impossible, whether
16 they've been beat up or you have to catch the
17 animal on the second time, especially for
18 markets, if they have to—if that animal has to
19 be listed on an ICVI, they might have read it
20 coming in, and then they've got to read it again
21 to put it on the ICVI going out. So impossible
22 to read it at the speed of commerce.

23 And then if you look at the bottom right-
24 hand part of the slide, that's one of our
25 favorites slides of an ICVI. And I feel for

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1 that accredited vet. I know we have an
2 accredited vet here. I mean, this guy did the
3 right thing. It's amazing. He actually caught
4 those animals and wrote every ID down. But, so
5 I can't tell if he was mad with his writing
6 here, or if he was just trying to do it at the
7 speed of commerce, and that's how the legibility
8 turned out. But what's the transcription error
9 rate for him trying to do it that fast or
10 writing that many numbers down? And then when
11 we try to find the one animal we're looking for,
12 it makes it that much harder for us to find the
13 correct animal in that grouping.

15 The third challenge, and when we started
16 these meetings, everybody said, "Okay, here's
17 comes phase two; we're going to include beef
18 feeder cattle." And while we do feel that beef
19 feeder cattle are an important part of the
20 equation, there are substantial gaps, including
21 the official ID requirement being limited to
22 interstate movement and visually-only tags.
23 There's other gaps that need to be filled before
24 we ever consider moving to feeder cattle. So
25 while we want to include them in the discussion,

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1 that's not what phase two or looking at ways to
2 advance traceability is necessarily about. They
3 have to be included at some point. I mean, when
4 you consider that feeder cattle are not isolated
5 from disease when you look at the tuberculosis
6 data, 20 out of those 38 cases were feeder
7 cattle. So we know they're just as susceptible,
8 so they have to be included at some point in the
9 equation.
10

11 We also know there's trade implications.
12 I'm sure many of you have heard of the
13 conversations about China and other trading
14 partners who are a little more interested in
15 what our traceability systems domestically are
16 today. And so it's just another reason to think
17 about including them down the line and be able
18 to gain access into those markets. Again, as
19 Neil mentioned, when the rule was drafted, we
20 included language that reiterates the
21 requirement for FSIS or plant personnel to
22 collect and correlate identification of animals
23 at slaughter through final inspection. This is
24 a gap. We know that it's inconsistently applied
25 at different slaughter plants for a variety of

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1 reasons. Some of it is, we fear that they have
2 the same issues with speed of commerce. It's
3 hard if an animal comes in with multiple tags
4 and with a back tag, it's hard for them to
5 collect everything at the speed of commerce
6 without slowing the line down. Back tags might
7 be hard for them to reach, so they might not
8 even try to collect them. If we don't have that
9 information, and we have a lesion, we don't know
10 that we have the right animal. So we might have
11 to test every herd in that lot to find that one
12 source of infection. So that's why this is so
13 important to us in terms of trace-backs.

14
15 We've heard there's procedural issues at
16 plants—maybe the way the line is set up or where
17 the collection point is, it makes it difficult.
18 And then probably the biggest issue we have is
19 turnover of plant personnel and our personnel—
20 FSIS and APHIS personnel where the message isn't
21 getting through. Why is this important? Does
22 the new guy know that he needs to do this? And
23 actually correlate it—not just collect it, but
24 it's got to be that animal, to make sure it's
25 tagged to that animal. So we have a working

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1 group that's dedicated to improving the rates of
2 collection and correlation, really making some
3 good progress with training elements for not
4 only our personnel, but also plant and FSIS
5 personnel as well.
6

7 So why are we here? This is part of our
8 outreach and feedback. So we started last year
9 having some conference calls internally and with
10 our state partners to determine again, as we
11 said, what's working well and what's not working
12 well, and where do you feel the biggest gaps
13 are? We also tasked our state and federal field
14 personnel with going back out to industry folks
15 to say, "How is it going?" We've gotten
16 feedback over time since the rule was published,
17 but to really get to the heart of what's causing
18 the most concern or the most problems and—but
19 again, that one also is working well. And then
20 these regional stakeholder meetings—so we
21 initially set up seven; we're on the sixth one
22 now. We had such a good response that we did
23 add a couple additional meetings that'll take
24 place. And we also started a state/federal
25 working group a few months ago that's actually

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1 going to take all the feedback we get from these
2 regional meetings and provide kind of a synopsis
3 or a white paper for a national traceability
4 forum in the fall of this year.
5

6 And so we have, as I mentioned, we have
7 three remaining regional stakeholder meetings.
8 Our next one is May 24th in Billings, Montana;
9 July 18th is Omaha, Nebraska, and July 20th is
10 Fort Worth in Texas. Kansas is also hosting
11 their own traceability meeting using the same
12 format that we are using today, and that will be
13 on June 22nd. So an additional one held locally
14 by Kansas. And then again, that kind of final
15 report will be distributed or published for the
16 NIA/USAHA traceability forum that'll take place
17 on September 27th and 28th in Denver, Colorado.

18 So goals for us today—I think you've heard
19 it in our opening remarks, but we really are
20 here to listen. I know we have a smaller group,
21 but that gives you even more chance to talk and
22 offer your opinion, so I'm not above calling on
23 people. So if anybody's quiet, you'll be picked
24 out of the crowd and forced to speak. But we
25 really want to hear what's working well and

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1 what's not working well. What do you think the
2 gaps are in what you deal with day-to-day? Do
3 you think there needs to be revisions to the
4 current framework? Where do we need to get to a
5 traceability? So those are all important parts
6 to dig through today. We've got an excellent
7 panel I think that'll provide how things are
8 working out for them, but just make sure for
9 those of you that aren't included in the panel,
10 you have the opportunity to speak. You've got a
11 really good group of people here to listen, so
12 we appreciate your comments.

14 And additionally, just as we charged our
15 state and federal personnel with going back out
16 to the field and drumming up some comments and
17 discussion on how things are working, you all
18 can do the same with your counterparts. So
19 obviously if you have a small group, it's hard
20 for people to get away to come to something like
21 this for an entire day. And even if you think
22 of things later, go home, write it down, and
23 there's a bunch of different ways to provide
24 comments. You can submit written comments
25 online. You can also mail them in, and I think

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1
2 somewhere along the, Ed Basey's [phonetic] got
3 some papers that contain this information, so
4 feel free to take some back to our counterparts
5 or with you if you want to make comments later.
6 But really, there's a multitude of ways to
7 provide your feedback, so make sure you please
8 do. And we'll open it up for any questions you
9 guys might have. Sure.

10 MALE VOICE 1: The - - .

11 MS. GRIMES: - - required - - and we want to
12 make sure we get your questions.

13 [Laughter]

14 MS. GEISER-NOVOTNY: We want to make sure we
15 get you on the record.

16 MALE VOICE 1: Thank you. For the beef
17 feeder cattle that came back positive for TB, do
18 you have a breakdown on the type? Whether
19 they're Angus, Holstein?

20 MS. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Probably, but not with
21 me.

22 MALE VOICE 1: I just think it'd be
23 interesting to...

24 MS. GEISER-NOVOTNY: Yeah. But I don't
25 think I included that particular data in the

1 assessment, but I'll look it up real quick and
2 see.
3

4 MALE VOICE 1: Cool, thanks.

5 MR. JIM WARREN: I'm probably the most
6 excited person to be in this room today. We
7 started animal ID in 2000, and we thought the
8 whole world would be animal-identified by 2001.
9 And that really didn't happen, but we worked
10 with the Livestock Markets Association and the
11 National Cattlemen's Association and the state
12 and local groups to try and bring animal ID
13 about, because we realized that we were just
14 hampering federal and state officials in their
15 ability to try to trace animal diseases. And
16 the mad cow cost us in the billions, and we
17 didn't want it to happen again.

18 So with a national animal ID program, it
19 would really speed up the whole traceability
20 program that you guys are trying to accomplish,
21 and you can look at those slides today and see
22 how much effort is put into trying to trace one
23 animal in one location, and try to find out—try
24 to limit the disease spread from that one
25 animal. So our analysis was that we really

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1
2 couldn't get the Cattlemen's Association behind
3 supporting this program, because they might lose
4 members over it. And the Livestock Market
5 Association might lose members over it. And
6 some of the issues that came up early on were
7 important to consider, the federal database.
8 Well, the reality is we don't really need a
9 federal database if the tag companies keep track
10 of who they sell their tags to, and if they sell
11 them to a distributor, the distributor keeps
12 track of who they sell their tags to. An animal
13 in Colorado with hoof-and-mouth disease can be
14 traced back in 15 minutes, and it would save
15 some of the negatives that we hear about
16 traceability and animal ID and all the other
17 things that come up with that particular issue.
18 It might be better if I first explained a little
19 bit about my mind, because I think way out front
20 and so far ahead sometimes, it's hard to get
21 other people up to speed. And so it's not—I
22 guess that's the reason I'm so excited about
23 this meeting, because I think it's our first
24 opportunity to really make some real progress in
25 animal identification and disease trace-back.

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1
2 We've got 50 federal vets; we dispatch those
3 federal vets to foreign countries whenever a
4 highly communicable disease comes up, and their
5 work is to try to maintain there and help those
6 people solve their problems and not let that
7 disease spread to the United States.

8 So here we are in the United States with one
9 of the technologies that we could really speed
10 this process up and help with animal ID in the
11 United States, and we don't use it. So about
12 four or five years ago after lots of effort
13 trying to get some national movement on animal
14 ID, we went home and said, "We're going to take
15 care of our customers. That's about all that we
16 can do." So we've had a national animal ID
17 traceable program in our own business since
18 2001, and it's been probably really exciting,
19 because we tied it to a vaccination program and
20 got people to vaccinate. And then of course,
21 the vaccinations kept the cattle in line for the
22 people that bought them, and the tag has gone to
23 mean something. I don't know if we can afford
24 to have this technology that really works, and
25 then not use it. I think the time has come when

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1 we have to just put our foot down and say,
2 "Okay, we're going to have a national animal ID
3 program, and it's going to be associated with
4 disease traceability.
5

6 Now, I think to circumvent the national
7 program to try to get something up and running,
8 I think California could just jump up tomorrow
9 morning and say, "We're going to have a
10 California state AID traceable program for all
11 cattle in the state." Other states look to
12 California for the lead, and it's something
13 that's close to happening right now, and we
14 could just put our foot down and say, "That's
15 what we're going to do." And that would spread
16 nationally I think over the next year or two to
17 where we would be able to do things nationally.
18 And it would eliminate the Livestock Markets
19 Association saying we've got to have a national
20 animal ID program, because it's the right thing
21 to do. It would take the liability away from
22 the Cattlemen's Association; even though they
23 know it's the right thing to do, they don't want
24 to lose members either. Let's just put it back
25 on the state officials in California and blame

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1 them for it. And at least we'd be moving
2 forward. Any questions, I'll be glad to answer
3 questions.
4

5 MS. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And thank you for your
6 comments.

7 MALE VOICE 2: - - for an ID for a customer?
8 How much does it cost—how much do you charge a
9 customer for the tag and the labor and whatnot?

10 MR. WARREN: The tag that we're selling now
11 costs \$3.25 to our customer, and we actually
12 provide the service of recording the information
13 that we want to download into that tag like
14 shots and things like that as a service to our
15 customers. And we don't charge them for that.
16 It only costs them \$3.25 per tag.

17 MS. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And we can—one of our
18 topics in breakout topics later includes RFID;
19 we really appreciate your comments, and I think
20 we talked a little bit earlier about the fact
21 that the NUES tags have worked really well;
22 there's a lot of, there's difficulty maintaining
23 that at the speed of commerce, and one of the
24 things that we've been tasked with looking at
25 is, what's the cost benefit of moving to—what do

1 NUES tags really cost? They're not free. I
2 mean, they're free to producers and industry,
3 but there's a cost to them, so trying to
4 determine what that is—and we'll get into that
5 definitely I think a little bit later.

6
7 MS. GRIMES: Just for the recording, could
8 you—it's Jim—is your name?

9 MR. WARREN: Jim Warren.

10 MS. GRIMES: Jim Moore?

11 MR. WARREN: Warren.

12 MS. GRIMES: Okay, all right, just for our
13 audio recording, I want to make sure we get you.
14 Okay, are there any other questions to Neil and
15 Sunny in particular about either the assessment
16 work that's been done or the basics? Okay,
17 great. So if there are no more questions, we
18 would like to have our panelists come up, and
19 we've got hot seats here for you. And you don't
20 have to sit in any particular order, whatever
21 chair looks appealing to you.

22 But I will just identify people, and then
23 when you get up, if you'd introduce yourself and
24 say a little bit more, but right now we have
25 Justin Oldfield who represents the cow/calf

1 groups. For dairy we have Kevin Abernathy. For
2 Harris Feed Lot, we have Troy Murray. For
3 markets, we have Forrest Mangan. I hope I
4 didn't mispronounce your last name. If I did,
5 so sorry. Our state vet from California, Dr.
6 Annette Jones, and then Dr. Mike Karle, who's an
7 accredited vet. So this is our group of
8 panelists, and we've asked them to basically
9 share their different experiences with ADT in
10 the field, what they're dealing with every day.
11 And so we've given them license to just share
12 whatever they'd like. And we can go in a
13 voluntary order or down the row-whatever you
14 guys would like to do, but as you speak, just
15 identify yourself and share just a little bit
16 more about maybe the company or the industry or
17 your farm or ranch. Thank you.

19 MR. JUSTIN OLDFIELD: So I guess I'll start.
20 Justin Oldfield with the California Cattlemen's
21 Association. For the record, we represent
22 everybody, not just cow-calf producers, but we
23 also represent our cattle feeders as well. We
24 have a pretty active feeder council; it's part
25 of CCA and still a large population of feeder

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1 cattle in feed lots here in the state. So I
2 guess I'll start off just sort of briefly.

3 There certainly aren't any issues in the cattle
4 industry that are controversial, right?

5 Everybody gets along so well together, so in a
6 state like California, we do definitely have
7 lots of other issues that we're dealing with.

8 The state is a challenge to do business in, so
9 we've got many things on our minds and things
10 that we're fighting every year and our producers
11 are dealing with.
12

13 And although you'd think we would be united
14 on everything, we're not. And there are areas
15 of controversy, and this happens to be one of
16 them. And I'm not at all saying that we
17 shouldn't be engaged or that we're sort of at an
18 impasse here, but I think it's just a good thing
19 to note that there are differences of opinion on
20 ADT, mandatory ADT, and how this issue moves
21 forward amongst our membership. CCA is a
22 grassroots organization, and so we follow and
23 pursue the policies that have been provided to
24 us by our members. So kind of where we've gone—
25 I think pretty much all of you are familiar with

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1
2 NAIS. I think probably most of you who are
3 familiar with NAIS left a bad taste in many
4 people's mouths, and we still have producers
5 that, when that issue comes up or any discussion
6 about ADT, they immediately revert back to that.
7 Now, you may agree with that, disagree with
8 that; maybe that ship has sailed, but that's the
9 reality. And so that sort of taints the
10 discussion.

11 We also have the federal regs that have been
12 passed and then ultimately the state regs that
13 were adopted. We were engaged with pretty
14 significant comments on those, again at the
15 direction of our membership. And I think there,
16 people—the biggest issue that we found was one,
17 cost, and two, speed of commerce. And one of
18 the challenges that I see I guess being someone
19 that is on the outside sort of looking in and
20 then pursuing the policies directed by our
21 membership and just viewing the discussions that
22 went on, people are still very much linked and
23 in favor of their hot-iron brands in California.
24 Now that may be the folks that are coming and
25 representing their local areas that are being

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1
2 more vocal. Certainly there are folks out in
3 the countryside that may disagree with that
4 point. Again, we have a very wide, diverse
5 membership from cow-calves all the way up to the
6 feed yard, and certainly the differences of
7 opinions range in those industry segments as
8 well.

9 But I can tell you when we were developing
10 our policy, or when our members were developing
11 our policy and ultimately what our comments
12 would be, one of the large emphasis in addition
13 to the cost to interstate commerce was
14 maintaining the integrity of that brand. Now, I
15 can honestly tell you that that's, for us in the
16 West, maybe there's some merit to that, but when
17 you look at an ADT program across the country
18 where you have large cattle-producing states
19 that don't utilize hot-iron brands, that could
20 be a challenge, and I think even some of the
21 producers that saw ADT as something that could
22 be a regulatory challenge in the future
23 recognize the fact that not everybody recognizes
24 hot-iron brands. So at some point down the
25 road, something might need to change.

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1 I guess I'll throw out one joke here; one
2 thing I do find a little bit interesting is, in
3 terms of the controversy that we find in our
4 industry, the folks that were completely in
5 support of mandatory country of origin labeling
6 were not in support of the mandatory ADT
7 program. And it's not judgement on one or the
8 other, but that really—I always found that to be
9 interesting, and I bring that up as more of an
10 observation, because there are still folks out
11 there that have a huge concern about ADT.
12

13 And we hear consistently from other segments
14 of the industry, like for instance the livestock
15 markets. And I think personally they have a
16 very good point, because ADT works when it
17 starts at the ranch, right? But when you have
18 cattle being brought to market, and then we're
19 putting the burden and onus on someone else to
20 have to comply, that causes issues. Not only
21 that, enforcement has been a problem, right?
22 Consistency in enforcement, we see that across
23 many of our regulatory programs related to
24 animal health and ID. And again, I'm not
25 pointing fingers here, but people have talked

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1 about animal ID and its importance. That issue
2 needs to be adopted and be widespread amongst
3 the industry. - - work. We can't put the
4 burden just on one segment and say okay, we're
5 supportive of this, but now you're going to be
6 the ones to actually have to implement it and
7 comply. We hear concerns on folks that are
8 actively engaged in marketing calves that are
9 brought into these feed yards that are finished
10 and slaughtered; what are the implications for
11 trade?
12

13 Again, trade is also, in addition to ADT, in
14 addition to labeling, again, is another
15 controversy within the industry. We can look at
16 the numbers, and we can see the value in trade.
17 I think people disagree about how that value
18 sort of filters down the production chain, but I
19 think bottom line, everybody agrees that there's
20 value in it. And then the pressure comes, so we
21 have trading partners or countries that are
22 looking at purchasing meat from our cattle—not
23 just in California, but United States that
24 demand some sort of mandatory ADT program. But
25 what is the industry going to do to step up and

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1 meet that challenge in order to trade into those
2 markets? Again, that's something that the
3 industry's going to have to work out, and I
4 think ultimately people are going to have to see
5 the value in that in order to pursue it. I
6 question certainly—we've got trade agreements to
7 where we do have voluntary programs that work
8 where cattle that are eligible to go into those
9 markets can already take part in an age-source
10 verification program. We see that within HTC
11 and other programs. But again, that's something
12 that the industry is going to have to grapple
13 with, and it's a real issue, especially when you
14 look at countries like China who have now
15 indicated on several occasions that they're
16 interested in bringing U.S. beef back to the
17 mainland. Just so everybody knows, U.S. beef
18 does end up on mainland China; it just goes
19 through Vietnam or other countries. But as an
20 open market, having beef go on China, is that an
21 opportunity, and what do we do to make that
22 happen? And is that a big enough opportunity
23 for the industry to change its direction?
24 That's not an issue for me to decide; that's an

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1 issue for I think our cattle producers to
2 decide. We don't know yet whether or not China
3 is going to require that. They hinted. I can
4 tell you that at our summer meeting—National
5 Cattlemen's Beef Association—there is going to
6 be probably a policy brought forward to look at
7 I think not necessarily adopting the policy, but
8 trying to get the conversation back underway
9 about, if there was a mandatory ID or ADT
10 program, what would that look like and how would
11 that be implemented? And so I think these
12 conversations are not going to go away, whether
13 we see a full ADT program at some point in the
14 future that's promulgated by USDA or whether
15 that's something that is entirely different that
16 looks at a mandatory ADT program, not just what
17 an expansion of the current regulations that are
18 in place - -. But again, I can tell you right
19 now, just again from my point of view looking in
20 at the conversations that are happening amongst
21 our members in the industry, there's certainly
22 going to have to be some pressure applied
23 somewhere to move that ball down the field, if
24 that's what people desire to do. And again, I'm

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1 not arguing that that is the best course.

2 That's not for me to say.

3
4 But I don't think the industry is going to
5 move on its own, and I know that frustrates
6 some. And that makes other people happy, but
7 there's definitely going to have to be some
8 outside pressure applied if that's where people
9 are going to want to go. Again, California—we
10 are unfortunately, a feeder and a slaughter
11 capacity deficit state, and we got great
12 operations like Harris and others that, thank
13 God they're around, that we can keep our feed
14 capacity and our slaughter capacity going, but
15 it's a reality that we do have a lot of cattle
16 that have to leave the state to go to markets,
17 because we just don't have operations anymore
18 that can take those cattle. And so regulations
19 like this have a huge impact on our industry for
20 the fact that we are very much, interstate
21 commerce for us is a big deal in California and
22 in many parts of the West based on our limited
23 feeding and slaughter capacity. And so where
24 there's consistency, I think is very important.

25 Also how these rules apply to intrastate

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1 commerce too, something that's also very
2 important. And I know that CDFA is looking at
3 implementing some of the USDA reg policies for
4 intrastate commerce and the intrastate movement-
5 we're seeing that. We've been - - in providing
6 comments there. I don't expect those
7 requirements to go away. I don't expect them to
8 diminish at any point in the future, and
9 probably further discussion will be about how we
10 incorporate ADT into more intrastate movement of
11 cattle.
12

13 I think one of the things that-we just had a
14 meeting the other day interestingly enough about
15 an issue related to brucellosis, and I think it
16 was a pretty good indicator about how disease
17 prevention and traceability go hand in hand in
18 many cases. And one of the things that I'll
19 just tell you from an industry perspective made
20 us look weak, but it's the truth. We've got
21 segments of our industry that are still pushing
22 hard for certain mandatory vaccination programs,
23 and then we've got other segments of the
24 industry that want to sort of ease those based
25 on the limited - - that may or may not be there.

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1 And of course there's the individual ID piece
2 that goes along with that. And it's difficult,
3 because when we talk about ADT regs, we think
4 solely about EID tags and marketing ability, and
5 then of course disease trace back. But there
6 are programs in place that already affect
7 individual identification of animals outside of
8 the current regulation that was passed. It has
9 nothing to do with moving cattle interstate, but
10 it has maybe to do with brucellosis vaccinations
11 and what's required. In California, do a - -
12 test, require to put an individual ID in, in a
13 bull. So those are issues that we have to
14 grapple with too. It's not just the wider ADT
15 concepts for marketing, trade, widespread trace-
16 back of animal diseases across state lines, but
17 also how those play into the mandatory
18 vaccination programs or disease control programs
19 that we already have in place that require
20 animal ID. So I think with that, I'll probably
21 stop.
22

23 [END MORNING SESSION PART 1]

24 [START MORNING SESSION PART 2]

25 MR. TROY MURRAY: My name is Troy Murray.

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1
2 I'm the Assistant Manager at Harris Feeding
3 Company. I'm responsible for processing,
4 health, pretty much everything outside of the
5 feed yard. And then over at the feed plant, I'm
6 responsible for the cow pens and everything into
7 going in the building. And then also in the
8 building I'm responsible for auditing our export
9 verification program, our ED-30, which we
10 operate now since Japan went to 30 months. I
11 used to be the quality manager for the ED-20
12 program on the live side of Harris Feeding
13 campaign.

14 So had a lot of involvement with EIBs,
15 certificates, a lot of paperwork and different
16 things. So been with Harris since 2005, was
17 there when we initially started to get back into
18 Japan in 2006, '07. So I've been kind of been
19 on the ground floor of all the, not as long as
20 Jim has in 2000. But for some time now dealing
21 with EIBs and traceability on different types of
22 cattle.

23 Just a little background on where we're at
24 right now. We've purchased probably about
25 280,000 head of cattle a year between purchasing

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1 and actually cuts of feeding cow, and we harvest
2 our slaughtered, our beef plant in Selma,
3 California. And right now we're doing about
4 1,050 a day, so large feeder, mid-size packer,
5 for you guys that aren't familiar with Harris
6 Ranch. We're located down in Fresno County,
7 which is about three hours south of here.
8

9 With the animal disease traceability program
10 we co-mingle a lot of California cattle with out
11 of state cattle, so when we see, if we want to
12 trace cattle back, I typically sell cattle, just
13 a little background for you guys, 750 to 850,
14 850 to 950, and 950 up. So we don't sort a lot
15 a lot of fat cattle; we sort on end weight. So
16 if I have 50 different loads, which we're really
17 busy right now, if I had 50 loads come in
18 yesterday that we're going to process, I'll
19 probably be going to three steer lots and three
20 heifer lots, typically 300 - - lots.

21 So those 300 - - lots could have 20
22 different sources, and those 20 different
23 sources could have 200 to 300 different sources,
24 because they're typically - - cattle right now.
25 So it gets pretty large where you're pulling

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1 those cattle from. It's awful hard to, and when
2 I do that, if I bought some cattle from Justin
3 or - -, they each get a number 01, 02, depending
4 on what lot they go in, back to a source. We
5 try to get back to where Justin bought those cow
6 from and if he's running a thousand head of
7 yearlings, then it gets really complex because
8 yeah, they might have a brand on them, but I
9 don't - - this, and maybe some of you are or
10 aren't, but I've seen a lot of blurred irons in
11 my life you can't even read.

12
13 And I think I'm pretty good at it, but yeah,
14 it's got something on the right hip. And
15 sometimes people get a little more complex. No
16 offense John, everybody that registers their
17 iron, but there's some irons that are a little
18 easier to read than others. But what happens
19 when they come to the feed lot, we'll - - them,
20 they'll go into a lot, and then they're going to
21 go to harvest plant at a certain point, or
22 slaughter plant, Harris Ranch Beef.

23 And we're doing about 150 an hour when we're
24 rolling. And what will happen though is that -
25 - will come off, and then they'll go downstairs.

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1
2 And then we'll have, for whatever reason, some
3 cow will get - - out instead, so you lose the
4 sequence. So they'll go downstairs and find
5 that hide that matched that animal, well,
6 chances are you're not going to have a very easy
7 time of it. So you need an official animal ID.
8 We've done some trace back to the feed lot
9 before on cattle that have maybe a lot tag or a
10 Brite tag. And we can kind of get you back at
11 some point. But we're a big fan of RFIDs on
12 cattle. If we were ever going to be get back to
13 a ranch, we kind of need, the RFID needs to be
14 put into a ranch where that cow/calf or at the
15 calf ranch where that animal comes from.

16 And to hit on tagging cattle at the sale
17 barn, and this is no offense to sale barn
18 operators there, but those cattle are under
19 enough stress, and I really don't want to
20 purchase, we will, we'll have to, because we got
21 to have that 280,000 head of cattle a year. But
22 I prefer that the cattle aren't put through a
23 chute and tagged to the range; it just adds that
24 much stress to them. So we want to minimize
25 stress on any cattle, especially sell yard

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1 cattle, and when we get into June/July we buy
2 blonde cows. We have to because you got to - -
3 when the calves start coming. And they're a
4 little more delicate to handle and a little more
5 naïve, so we really want to minimize stress on
6 them.
7

8 So I don't think we need to put the burden
9 on the sale barns if we're going to be
10 purchasing those cattle because - - stress,
11 you're going to have to health issues - -
12 mortality. And then possibly running calves
13 through a chute at a public spot is probably not
14 the best thing you could do because - - calves
15 handle a little wilder and different things, so
16 just touching on that.

17 But Harris, we deal with this every day,
18 whether it be out-of-state heifers and different
19 things that work with the state on. But the
20 RFID system would work best for us, especially
21 if processing where we receive cattle because we
22 can just scan them in. And unlike that - - that
23 probably did it perfect, I got guys sitting down
24 there if they're recording 1,500 tags a day, or
25 2,250, we'll probably process a day in two

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1 chutes, we're going to have some errors. And I
2 don't have anybody really that has that amount
3 of time to enter that into an Excel spreadsheet.
4

5 And then these cattle went into this lot and
6 it needs to be taken off. It needs to be
7 computer-based where we can do it quickly. It
8 takes a little time to create an RFID number and
9 upload it in the system, about three or four
10 seconds is what we've found. But this is what
11 the process - -. And at the harvest facility,
12 it just takes a couple of seconds to read the ID
13 as well or if they're going to - - carcass,
14 attach that to the retained slip and then we can
15 trace it back on our end.

16 The Brite tags and things, they also fall
17 out. They get infected. I haven't seen too
18 many RFIDs infected. You will see some of the
19 Brite tags have some infection in the ear.
20 We'll have to kind of take them out. Anyways
21 that's about all I got.

22 MR. KEVIN ABERNATHY: Thank you Troy. Kevin
23 Abernathy. I'm the general manager for Milk
24 Producers Council and also the vice chairman of
25 - - here in California. Interesting in

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1 listening to my colleagues up here talking. So
2 going to give you a quick history lesson, I grew
3 up on a small cow/calf operation in Eskon
4 [phonetic], California. And my grandfather was
5 a livestock auctioneer in Eskon with the
6 Mooresman [phonetic] family. And I guess more -
7 - for myself I couldn't judge beef cattle to
8 save my ass but I sure could pick out a good
9 dairy cow.

10
11 So lo and behold, I ended up in the dairy
12 side and married a dairyman's daughter. And one
13 of the things, it's an interesting observation
14 for me, from the standpoint that growing up as a
15 kid on a calf operation and then working with
16 the livestock, working on the livestock yard
17 with my granddad, the difficulty in actually
18 working and handling the animals in comparison
19 to a confinement operation of a California dairy
20 facility, my God, we got it so easy we can't see
21 straight.

22 And when you take that in combination that
23 when our whole world revolves around genetics
24 and now genomics and productivity and
25 profitability, which we have only had one year

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1 since 2009 when California dairy families
2 actually made a dollar, we've been doing a lot
3 of these things for reasons other than animal
4 disease and traceability. Quite frankly we were
5 just lucky. I don't think there's any other way
6 to put it.
7

8 So from the standpoint that RFD and dairy
9 farms in California and across the country, I
10 mean there's only about 46,000 of us left in the
11 United States. We have to run pretty
12 sophisticated - - pretty sophisticated
13 operations. And the more - - we have, the
14 better it is, and it just happens to translate
15 over into the subject that we're talking about
16 today. But as Annette alluded to earlier, the
17 standpoint that we are ridiculously over-
18 regulated in this extremely left wing, wacko
19 state of California, this is certainly not
20 something that's top priority because it fits
21 very seamlessly into what we're already doing.

22 If there were a major changes coming down
23 the road that's going to add to the list of
24 criteria of pollutants and greenhouse gases and
25 short-lived climate pollutants with water

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1 quality regulations, the list goes on and on and
2 on, overarching the fact that for the most part
3 we're producing milk and receiving less dollars
4 in our monthly milk checks than what we're
5 paying in feed and labor to go out and actually
6 produce that milk, along with citizens' lawsuits
7 from - - and other sources and now - -. But I
8 guess I might just finish my quick comments with
9 the fact that the week before last I had the
10 opportunity to meet with Dr. Sam Clovis at
11 headquarters at USDA. And we spent about an
12 hour and a half talking, 'cause I actually had
13 the privilege of working for quite a few
14 administrations on the Ag Air Quality Task Force
15 with the Secretary and Chief of NRCS.

17 There's going to be some major changes
18 within the agency, and we talked about some of
19 those. And they are certainly looking for
20 direction as to priorities and programs within
21 the agency as they're doing some reorganization,
22 which I got an interoffice memo, which I'm sure
23 a lot of the USDA folks got today, from our new
24 secretary. And I would just say that we need to
25 make sure that this continues to be a priority

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1 because health and welfare and safety of the
2 animals and the people that we're feeding in
3 this country and across the world is going to be
4 key to these kind of programs.
5

6 So we need to make sure that the Secretary
7 and Mr. Sperling and Mr. Clovis, that are
8 advisors to the President, have a very clear
9 understanding just how important these kind of
10 programs are to all of us in the livestock
11 industry.

12 DR. MIKE KARLE: While we're doing that,
13 while we're getting set up I apologize, I'm a
14 nerd, and I did these slides last night to kind
15 of organize my thoughts, and I thought it would
16 be really cool to dump them on my iPad and I
17 could just sit up there with my iPad and go
18 through my presentation, but technology eluded
19 me and somehow, yeah. So technology eluded me
20 and - - my iPad, but luckily I'm a nerd and
21 therefore I did back up my stuff. So these are
22 my only notes, which is the only reason I'm up
23 here instead of sitting over there.

24 So I apologize. My name's Mike Karle. I'm
25 a veterinarian, private practice up at Orland,

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1 California. I know it says Bishop Veterinary
2 Hospital but maybe I was taking Dr. Talbot's
3 place or something. So it's Mid-Valley, that
4 hospital up by Orland. Do mixed animal practice
5 but primarily dairy, beef. I have bison
6 clients. I have small - - clients. I have B
7 clients now too. And I was just speaking at a
8 symposium at UC Davis and actually individually
9 identifying bees now too for research. So I
10 print out little QR codes and cut them out on
11 waterproof paper and glue them to - - use
12 cameras to scan. So it's pretty cool. So we
13 can do this on bees.

15 So what's working well from my standpoint as
16 a private practicing veterinarian, accredited
17 veterinarian, the selfish thing is if we require
18 everybody to do it, it just makes my life
19 easier. It goes back to government being the
20 bad guy thing. And instead of the clients
21 getting mad at me for saying hey, before we send
22 these 200 head, we've got to run them all
23 through a chute and officially ID them.

24 And if it was done before, then everybody's
25 happy. We blame the government for making us do

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1
2 it. And it just makes everybody's life easier
3 if it just becomes a standard of practice that
4 when an animal's born or the first time they get
5 ran through the chute or the first time they get
6 roped and branded, that individual ID goes in
7 that calf's ear. It just makes it easier.

8 So I noticed in this afternoon's thing,
9 there was a question on approved tagging sites.
10 I'm a huge fan of the approved tagging sites. I
11 might have to send a couple of truckloads of
12 animals across state lines, and my clients don't
13 have the facilities to officially identify them.
14 And they can go to an approved tagging site. It
15 just makes my life a lot easier, and I think
16 compliance then is a lot easier, so I am in
17 favor of those.

18 What could be improved? I have one bison
19 client, so my experience is admittedly limited,
20 but they're kind of nasty to deal with, and they
21 really don't like being confined. So putting in
22 any official ID on those guys is tough, but when
23 you're doing it, even in a chute situation and
24 you're using the metal tags, silver Brite tags,
25 or even Bangs-vaccinating them, it makes it

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1 rough. They have small ears to begin with, and
2 they're hairy underneath. And so I think an
3 RFID tag is a lot easier to do that. So I'm in
4 favor of doing it, but trying to read a silver
5 Brite tag in a bison ear is not a fun experience
6 for those of you've never done it.

8 Cattle, the one thing I'm glad about this -
9 - being screwed up is I do have a cool graph
10 that I made last night at 11:30. I just had a
11 dairy client sell, it was about 550 cows that
12 got sold to a dairy in Idaho. But it struck me
13 the number of metal tags that were missing
14 because this dairy, I've done the work for 17
15 years on this dairy, and I probably put almost
16 every single brucellosis tag in these calves'
17 ears. And I pride myself on doing a good job,
18 and my taggers are tight, and I put the tags in
19 correctly. And you'll see the attrition rate on
20 those silver brucellosis tags on the next slide.

21 And then as far as putting those metal tags
22 in bulls' ears, now with the trich regulations,
23 I've had a couple of years' experience now of
24 trying to re-identify, or officially identify
25 bulls as they come through every year for trich

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1 tests. And putting a metal tag in a mature bull
2 who has been out on the range and fighting and
3 stuff is not usually very rewarding because the
4 ears are so thick, and they lose them every
5 single season. So one of my big things I'm in
6 huge favor of RFID tags, and if we can get away
7 from the silver Brites and stuff, I think that
8 would do wonders for actually traceability.
9

10 Let's see. Oh, and then, keeping track of
11 the silver Brite distribution. Right now I have
12 an Excel spreadsheet that I print out, and my
13 brucellosis kit has one, and my trich kit has
14 one and we keep one at the office, and we just
15 handwrite down the client's name and address and
16 which tags that they get. But for USDA or CFA
17 to come in and want to trace something back, it
18 reminds me of that box of, a picture of the
19 boxes of records that you have to go through.
20 We don't have anything electronic that would
21 make that very easy.

22 So here's my one cool graph I made last
23 night at 11:30. It was a little over 500
24 animals and the two-year olds retain probably
25 close to 85, 87% of their brucellosis tags. But

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1 when you get into the six, seven, eight, nine
2 year olds, it's less than 10% retention. So I
3 think for CDFA or for USDA to go back and do a
4 trace back, how useful was it to rely on a metal
5 tag, at least in a dairy situation, it may be a
6 little different in beef, but when dairy cows
7 are going through headlocks, probably six times
8 a day, those tags fall out, and so I question
9 the usefulness of the metal tags.
10

11 As far as the RFID tags, I think for some of
12 my dairy clients and a lot of my beef clients, I
13 think the cost of them is still maybe a
14 perceived barrier, but it is a barrier. If they
15 can get a free silver Brite tag versus a \$1.95
16 or \$1.98 RFID tag, there is still that economic
17 decisions that is going to be made. I did buy
18 several hundred of the RFID tags, the orange
19 ones to use for when I do brucellosis
20 vaccinations for beef or dairy cows. And one
21 client has used those, so I think we're still a
22 little bit, those are still a little bit in the
23 future. I hope that we eventually get to using
24 those more and more.

25 And I think for the veterinarians who don't

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1 do a lot of CVIs or don't, there's a barrier of
2 getting the readers, getting the software,
3 getting everything to work together. I mean I
4 still don't have an RFID tag reader, and I
5 probably do more CVIs than probably your average
6 veterinarian, but I still think that couple
7 thousand dollars is still a barrier to adoption,
8 and it's probably different for Harris Feed Lot
9 who runs thousands of cows through a reader a
10 day - -. But it's still probably a barrier to
11 most veterinarians.
12

13 And then the biggest thing for me is once I
14 get those numbers, how am I going to manage that
15 data, and that's on my last slide. I think for
16 this to be really useful we just need to have
17 the ability to electronically move these numbers
18 around. I don't have a brucellosis form or an
19 OCB form. That's in electronic format, and that
20 would be very handy for me as I vaccinate a
21 bunch of calves.

22 Frankly, the USDA website for writing a CVI
23 is very cumbersome, and every time I try to dump
24 in 500 animals of a herd sale, the whole website
25 crashes for me. And it's just not very user-

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1 friendly and I've gone through, - - and that
2 works well, but I still don't have the ability
3 to generate a tuberculosis form or a brucellosis
4 test form. And so thank gosh I have some
5 friends at CDFA that I can call up say hey, I've
6 got 500 animals and give them all my information
7 on an Excel spreadsheet, and they can dump it
8 into a TB form or a brucellosis form. And I
9 don't know if that's legal or not, and I don't
10 want to get anybody in trouble. [Laughter] But
11 it sure helps me out, and as a private
12 practitioner it sure would be handy for me to
13 have the electronic means to utilize all those
14 numbers and - - the forms I need. Because the
15 CDA may require a brucellosis test form, TB test
16 form and a CVI - - handling those cattle at
17 least three times electronically.

19 And the last barrier that I ran into quite a
20 bit is my clients seem to like to wait until the
21 last minute to kind of get things going when
22 they're in shipment. And there are some states
23 out there that are really awesome that have, you
24 can sign up and have online portals so that I
25 can, if I have to do a CVI at 10:00 at night for

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1 a shipment that's leaving at 5:00 in the
2 morning, I can log onto Idaho's website and I
3 have my little login stuff there. I can enter
4 all the information on my CVI and get an after-
5 hours permit, but there are quite a few states
6 that still don't have that ability.
7

8 And so some states I'm stuck. I can't do
9 anything. Some states I can call, and somebody
10 will answer the phone and give me a temporary
11 permit, or they'll have a recording that I can
12 get a temporary permit. But then, so I can put
13 that permit number on my CVI, email to my
14 client, and the trucks can be ready to go. But
15 then those states also want me to write the
16 actual permit number on those CVIs as the
17 trucker is driving away. And so there's no real
18 easy way to get those actual permit numbers onto
19 the CVIs because the electronic ones, they lock
20 you out, and you can't get at that stuff.

21 So something that I think could be improved,
22 I think the technology from the government side
23 can maybe be improved a little bit to help us
24 out. So those are my comments. Thank you.

25 MR. FORREST MANGAN: Good morning, Forest

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1 Mangan with Livestock Marketing Association.

2 I'm the Regional Executive Officer for LMA, and
3 I cover nine of the Western states. LMA is a
4 national trade association that represents the
5 auction markets across the United States. About
6 85% of the markets in the United States are
7 members of LMA.
8

9 I think one thing I don't need to stress to
10 everybody here is that the markets are a very
11 crucial point for identifying livestock. And so
12 when we talk about ID programs, a few things we
13 believe must, have to be in place for them to
14 work. One would be it must move at the speed of
15 commerce. If we're ID'ing cattle, cattle moving
16 through, speed of commerce is very important,
17 not only for the markets but for the rest of the
18 industry.

19 There must not be disadvantages to certain
20 businesses. And this must be an industry-driven
21 program. And I'll get a little bit into that a
22 little bit later. We can talk about the current
23 rule and some of the issues that we see with it.
24 One is the lack of consistency between states.
25 It has made it a challenge for successful

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1
2 implementation. Some of those are the
3 interpretation of ADT from different states to
4 others. It was mentioned earlier, the confusion
5 of exemptions. There's a lot of times you call
6 one state, you call another state, everybody's
7 got a little different - - means different
8 states, and interpretation of some of the
9 exemptions or how it reads and works get
10 confusing. I think that's been part of the
11 problem.

12 And then also we have a wide-ranging
13 requirement or state requirements that kind of
14 get intertwined with animal disease
15 traceability. That also makes it very
16 challenging. One of the biggest issues, the
17 markets, when I talk to them, when I travel
18 across the country, is the enforcement of this
19 regulation, how there's the lack of uniformity
20 in enforcement. Not to cry poor us, the
21 markets, but we feel that the markets are a very
22 easy stop with the - - enforcement of this rule.

23 But for this rule to be successful and for
24 it to ever move forward, if that's where the
25 USDA is going, there has to be uniform,

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1
2 consistent enforcements of this rule, whether
3 it's at the market, country trade, wherever it
4 is, it needs to be uniform. And at this point
5 we realize it's challenging. There is only so
6 many people you can have out there doing this,
7 enforcing this rule, but definitely is a
8 frustration of the markets that the lack of that
9 consistency is out there.

10 Some of the unintended consequences that we
11 see with that or could even see more is if
12 producers are seeing that the enforcement is
13 done at the markets only, some of them are
14 leaving and trading cattle elsewhere, you're
15 actually driving cattle away and now there's no
16 enforcement anywhere else. So now you're
17 lacking, the whole goal is to get more cattle
18 identified, and now more getting away from the
19 enforcement, so it's actually an unintended
20 consequence by doing that.

21 And lastly, as a livestock market, they're
22 all private businesses, and they don't believe
23 it's their job to enforce this rule. Now going
24 forward I know I think it's tempered down the
25 top of - - feeder cattle, but I know the

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1 discussion is going to be there, it needs to be
2 had. Some of the things that we'd like to see
3 done before we move in that direction, one is
4 technology. Figure out what technologies to
5 use, what industry wants, and make it uniform.
6 If we have different technologies being used in
7 different states, - - ultra high frequency,
8 one's low frequency, as far as I know there's
9 some people in the room they could probably talk
10 about this more, I don't think the low frequency
11 reader will read high frequency and vice versa.
12 That's a problem. If you have cattle coming in
13 at ultra-high frequency, you have cattle coming
14 in at low frequency, can you have both readers
15 there? Can you have two readers? I don't know,
16 but there's somebody else to probably answer
17 that question.

18
19 The financial burden of - -, I'll just talk
20 on behalf of the markets. A lot of people will
21 say well, it's just the tags, it's only a couple
22 of bucks for that tag for the producer to put
23 in. But at the markets, the financial burden is
24 much higher. - - change in your facilities
25 depending on low frequency, high frequency, to

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1 run those cattle through. I know right now
2 California has a new intra-state - - some
3 markets are building new chute areas to run
4 these dairy steers through to tag them, and so
5 they're having to do some construction of a
6 facility. If you have a 5,000-head sale and you
7 got run 3,500 through or half of them through
8 and put RFID in those cattle, you're going to
9 have more salary, your work-comp is going to go
10 up, your livestock insurance, all those added
11 costs that we don't really look at enough.
12

13 And then lastly the stress on the cattle.
14 And not only is that, that's hurting your
15 producer, that's hurting your consigner. In the
16 long run, that's hurting the whole industry.
17 And Troy talked about it. They don't want to
18 buy those - -. They have to, but they don't
19 want to. They would rather retag before they
20 show up. And so we get back to talking what
21 else needs to happen before you go to the next
22 step. It's my belief, I think you've heard it
23 on this panel, that it needs to be done at the
24 producer level. It really does. If the program
25 is going to work, it really does need to be done

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1 there. It's a challenge for the markets to tag
2 all those cattle. I know Jim, and I don't want
3 to speak on behalf of you and tell me if I'm
4 wrong, but I think one of reason Jim's worked so
5 well is high percentage of those cattle are
6 tagged before they come to his market.
7

8 And give credit to Jim; he's pushed it and
9 he's got the tag to the producers, and so it's
10 worked for him, and that's great. But also some
11 markets out there that it would be pretty
12 challenging for them to do, whether it's in this
13 state or if you get down to the Southeast.
14 There's a lot of people down there, they don't
15 have the facilities. And a lot of times, it's
16 load up, whatever you can get to the back of the
17 trailer, you're going to take to the market. So
18 that's a big challenge.

19 I think some of those things need to be
20 looked at before we talk about the next step. I
21 think those are important. I think we're not
22 going to bury our heads in the sand and pretend
23 like we're never going to talk about feeder
24 cattle. The next step is I think we have to,
25 and we are going to. But at the same time we

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1 need to figure out the right way to do it before
2 we take that next step. And I think what the
3 current, I don't want to call it phase one, but
4 the current ADT rule, we can work on some of
5 these things and fix these before we begin that
6 next discussion.
7

8 DR. JONES: And unfortunately a lot of the
9 comments that we get are fully in line with
10 what's already been shared so let me go over
11 them pretty quickly. But first I just wanted to
12 share one of my thoughts, and then I'm basically
13 going to be a spokesperson for our staff
14 insurance, share with they've kind of learned
15 through experience.

16 But one of my favorite sayings is that form
17 follows function, which means you got to figure
18 out what you need to do to figure out how you do
19 it. That's the form, is how. So when I think
20 about animal identification I figure there's, in
21 my mind, the way I sort it in my mind, is four
22 major functions.

23 One of them is to be able to trace back
24 chronic diseases, like bovine spongiform
25 encephalopathy, TB, TB can be chronic or not,

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1 but things like TB. Another one is, and for
2 that it's really important to get back to the
3 birth herd, right, so that we can just put a
4 small circle around the potentially infected
5 animals rather than these huge circles to try
6 and control those diseases, eliminate those
7 diseases.

8
9 The other one is for rapidly spreading
10 diseases, like foot-and-mouth disease, for
11 something like foot-and-mouth disease, what you
12 really want to know is the most recent contacts.
13 And that's where the bookend versus trying to
14 get the movement through the cow's life becomes
15 different. It's really chronic versus highly
16 infectious.

17 And third one is for marketing. We've
18 already talked about it. So age and source
19 verification, as our local supply chain really
20 accelerates in importance. We've already
21 mentioned it several times that sometimes
22 traceability becomes really important to our
23 place in the marketplace, global marketplace for
24 our producers.

25 And then the fourth thing is ownership. And

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1 unless you want to be on a TV video for the
2 world's dumbest cattle thief, you're going to
3 cut tags out of ears. So that's why in the West
4 where we have ranching cattle - - or any form of
5 permanent ID that can't be cut out, there's
6 always going to be an important adjunct. That
7 has already been discussed. Brands are not the
8 best tool for traceability for both chronic
9 disease and highly infectious disease and for
10 marketability, because we don't need to go into
11 that, the differences between them. So in my
12 opinion we do need a dual-age system, dual
13 system. And I'm also, just through experience,
14 I've learned sometimes baby steps, if you're
15 trying to turn a really big, big ship, if you
16 take a hard right, you're probably going to
17 capsize it, especially if it's tall. So I'm
18 okay with incremental steps, which means we
19 really didn't accomplish that much. When I talk
20 about our experience, it's kind of the case.

21
22 But it's important that you don't misstep.
23 So I think the direction we've gone with ADT is
24 good, but I agree with everyone on the panel. I
25 think it's time to kind of get with it and move

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1 forward. So with that, I'll just go over a
2 couple of the, again, now I'm spokesperson for
3 our very competent staff. They have a lot of
4 people out in the field and with every good
5 experience.
6

7 So the first question we asked was how the
8 national system is working? And they said the
9 same thing as you guys said, there's too many
10 exceptions, and so it makes it really confusing.
11 On the other hand one size does not fit all, so
12 we support exemptions. So that's going to be a
13 challenging thing to work out.

14 Then many Western states - - brucellosis
15 vaccination mandate for official ID and brands
16 for ownership. I already mentioned that. So in
17 a way because we do use - - are a little more
18 comfortable with official ID, so it's helpful
19 because of brucellosis and trich; that's been
20 mentioned.

21 And USDA enforcement is not consistent and
22 definitely not rapid, which is one of the
23 reasons that we also adopted the regulations as
24 a state, so that we can assist USDA. And we
25 have a vested interest in California and

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1 California producers.

2
3 The major challenges have already been
4 mentioned. The green metal tags, - - for the
5 beef industry. They're not going to really
6 adopt it or move forward until they see a value
7 in placing those tags. So some of the age
8 source verification, things like that are
9 helpful. They also commented, the same thing as
10 Dr. Karle, that paper documents make things
11 challenging until we can move forward with
12 electronic documentation. It's challenging to
13 implement as it is right now.

14 So the CVIs test - - sales, consignments,
15 everything we've already mentioned. Obviously,
16 capturing electronic IDs, even that's not
17 occurring because of the some of the challenges
18 talked about, uploading RFID's, et cetera, et
19 cetera. People trained for using the mobile
20 devices. There are other ways to capture
21 electronic ID's; we do it all the time when we
22 get TB tests for our TB eradication programs.
23 But even in our staff, we have staff turnover,
24 and not - - changed. We need to extend that to
25 industry as well.

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1 Slaughter plants don't consistently gather
2 all existing ID's; that's been talked about.
3 And sometimes not even the electronic ID's. Are
4 tags are retired? Some feedlots still remove
5 existing ID and replace with their own tags.
6 Industry continues to use association tags, so
7 the 900 type instead of the 840 type. Hopefully
8 we'll be moving out of that.
9

10 The current USDA database is a burden, the
11 one that we use to look up IDs. The
12 veterinarians don't want to enter their tag re-
13 distributions, so sometimes we just trace it
14 back to the vet office and our personnel, with
15 turnover aren't necessarily trained to use the
16 system.

17 And then it's been also mentioned a few
18 times the fact that really the ADT rates just
19 focus on interstate movement. So for some of
20 those goals or functions about disease
21 traceability, until we also look at interstate
22 movement, it's going to be incomplete.

23 The next question asked is how has it
24 helped? And this was funny because I think the
25 biggest question was helped, question mark,

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1 coming back. Honestly I don't know that the
2 system as it exists has helped us with trace
3 back. Because we've had missed correlations at
4 slaughter plants, the speed of commerce, the
5 reading of tags. But I don't think that means
6 it's not worthwhile. I think that it just means
7 that's the first step, and let's move onto
8 getting those cattle tagged the first time
9 they're handled with RFID tags.
10

11 'Cause when we get there it's really going
12 to help us with trace back. It's going to help
13 us with marketability. It's going to help us
14 with both the chronic disease as the highly
15 infectious disease. Still not going to help us
16 with RID, but maybe it will be for theft. But
17 maybe it'll be an adjunct just like - - are an
18 adjunct for traceability.

19 And the exercises they felt don't really
20 represent true disease investigations because
21 many real cases only have back tags of
22 slaughter. We can't trace back from back tags.
23 We're pretty good at using paper, but until we
24 get more into electronic across the board I'm
25 not sure how much ADT is helping with trace

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1
2 back.

3 And I think that the final comment is we
4 really can't, and I've said already about five
5 times, you guys have said it, we cannot move on
6 until we really start to embrace and adopt and
7 become comfortable with electronic capture,
8 electronic IDs, electronic capture of
9 information, electronic paperwork. We really
10 need to focus on that before we do anything
11 else. And that's it.

12 MS. GRIMES: Okay, thank you so much all of
13 you. So right now I'd like to know if there ARE
14 specific questions you have for the panelists
15 about any of the remarks they've made. If you
16 have a question, we'll bring a mic to you. If
17 you could identify yourself, ask your question
18 and let us know who you're directing your
19 question to, that would be very helpful for the
20 recording. And if panel members have questions
21 for one another, that's fair game as well.

22 MR. BRAD PEEK: Brad Peek with Shasta
23 Livestock. Just kind of curious, prior to the
24 ADT, what was the percentage of, like through
25 the auction - -, this could be for Forrest or

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1 Dr. Jones, I guess, trace back like residue?

2
3 DR. JONES: So the residue trace back, the
4 biggest issue, I would say that our California
5 regulations that we really haven't been able to
6 test yet that went into effect April 1st will
7 really be the best indication of trace back.
8 Because a lot of the residue issues trace back
9 is very difficult, very challenging to get all
10 the way from harvest to the original cow.

11 A lot of residues are in types of animals
12 that have the ability to be treated with
13 antibiotics so usually confined, but they're
14 range animals, they're confined animals, which
15 usually means dairy. So you have to not be
16 using antibiotics - - to get to the animal. So
17 we really focused on dairy animal for
18 identification within the state for both disease
19 control as well as it also will help with
20 residue trace back.

21 So all dairy animals before they leave their
22 birth premises must have official IDs as of
23 April 1st in California. As Kevin mentioned, a
24 lot of dairies are doing that anyways, so now
25 they just need to finish up, there's a few

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1 exceptions for going to calf ranches with age
2 and source verification programs and things like
3 that. But for the most part, I think that if we
4 can do outreach and our producers adopt that and
5 buy into that, I think that's going to help with
6 residue trace back.
7

8 MR. PEEK: Prior to that was there a level
9 of success? I don't like when we get asked
10 about it.

11 DR. JONES: No, no, there was not. I mean
12 it's mixed success. I don't have the percentage
13 offhand, but I know FSIS reached out us actually
14 because they were having challenges, 'cause the
15 two strikes you're out thing or whatever it is
16 for harvest facilities that they have repeated
17 residue offenses. And they're having a hard
18 time tracing them back.

19 MALE VOICE 3: Can I ask a question real
20 quick? - - did the trace backs with the TB a
21 few years back, and you obviously had to go
22 through the markets, was it successful using the
23 markets with the information they had? Was it
24 not? 'Cause I think when we talk to markets
25 across the industry that, they feel like the way

1
2 it currently is, there's pretty good trace back
3 through the market that a lot of times they
4 could actually figure out where that animal came
5 from, most of the time.

6 So I was just curious. I know you guys had
7 to work with a lot of markets or a handful of
8 them, on your TB issue a few years ago, if you
9 just want to kind of go over that.

10 DR. JONES: Yeah, and I'm going to count on
11 Dr. Edmondson there to raise her hand if I steer
12 off course or don't cover adequately, 'cause she
13 certainly is probably the most experienced in
14 the state with that. For the most part, working
15 with the markets and the paperwork has helped us
16 a lot.

17 And we also have used brands as another way
18 to get back to ownership. There have been a few
19 situations where the trace through the markets
20 was not effective. It's definitely not a case
21 where we've faced out of state and then they've
22 lost them through dealers and other trace backs.
23 Anita, do you want to add to that? And they
24 need you to use a microphone 'cause of the
25 recorder.

1 DR. ANITA EDMONDSON: Yes, the trace backs
2 through the markets were successful in the
3 markets that recorded the animals' ID against
4 the back tag when they came through the yard.
5 We were using a lot of brands as well as we
6 basically searched on the brands and found those
7 brands and then went back to the paper records.
8 We went through all those papers to then match
9 the tags. So we did a lot of that work - -, and
10 it was very helpful.

11 FEMALE VOICE 1: Okay. How many - - were
12 involved in that trace? You tell us.

13 DR. EDMONDSON: I mean there were many, many
14 - - that were involved in the trace.

15 [Background conversation]

16 MR. WARREN: I've got a question for Troy.
17 If an animal comes to you - - identified, and
18 the records were stored in that number so you
19 could access those records or add to those
20 records - - animals at your place, and it went
21 to processing and you had the ability to
22 transfer that animal's number to the carcass, is
23 that something that would be good for your
24 company?
25

1
2 MR. MURRAY: It would benefit us, Jim, if we
3 had a group of animals, just one animal to see
4 how that one particular animal graded. But if
5 we had a lot of them, like bought 70 head or 800
6 pounds and we could look at that as an
7 individual basis.

8 MR. WARREN: I was thinking more of they all
9 came to your place - - identified. If they were
10 all, you got to your place - - identified, and
11 the tag neither stored the information or it was
12 stored on the Internet, so you could access that
13 information for those cattle, and then once that
14 animal is at your place you could download
15 information if you doctored him or if he was
16 NHGC or natural. And then when it went to
17 processing you could transfer that EID number to
18 the carcass as it went to the cooling plant.
19 That's my idea, was not just one animal, but if,
20 is that better?

21 MR. MURRAY: With China being the big
22 unknown, Jim, currently, what we're doing
23 currently, I'm trying to lot those cattle
24 together. I'm recording the EID within our
25 system so if China opens up and says hey, we

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1 want cattle EID, we want to know what premise
2 they come from, then I'd have the ability to
3 access that information and if they were trying
4 to open tomorrow, it's not going too, but within
5 180 days or whatever, I had the availability of
6 cattle to supply to beef plant.
7

8 So in the event the PRC opens up to us I've
9 been retaining, well, we don't - - them out
10 anymore, I've been trying to - - cattle to the
11 other, and it would do me, and I would set them
12 up as a group. The individual carcass data
13 would, if you fed them with us, if you want to
14 feed them or somebody wants to feed those
15 cattle, I could get carcass ID for them and
16 supply it back to the producer if you were a
17 feeding customer.

18 But the carcass data, it would help to make
19 a decision on how the cattle performed, it would
20 be good for the producer. But the main
21 component would be the ID and getting back to
22 making sure they were eligible for whatever
23 China might ask us for, is what we're currently
24 doing. So it all hinges on China. That's our
25 big unknown right now, and that's why we're

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1 trying to retain those EIDs, if we have a big
2
3 group of those cattle all logged together and
4 that way I'll have cattle in 106 months,
5 whenever it opens. I've been doing that for
6 about a year and a half now.

7 MR. PEEK: Troy, I'm sorry to pick on you
8 but those are for cattle that are already EID
9 tagged or designed for that program at the time
10 your purchased then, right?

11 MR. MURRAY: Yeah, they're already ID'd
12 whatever. They could be a mixed group of cattle
13 we bought off - - . There was 30 or 40 of them
14 that were EID'd. I know what the tags are. I
15 can l- - forever, and I'll just cut them off and
16 stick them in what I call a source verify lot.
17 And then we'll feed them together if they all
18 weigh about the same. I have cattle like that
19 going currently. They're being harvested now.
20 They're going to go - - Japan and stuff, but I
21 just want to make sure I have cattle around me
22 that get into that market.

23 MR. PEEK: So the producer that's
24 voluntarily ID'ing their cattle, in theory at
25 least is getting a little something more for

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1 that. Now the next question is what about other
2 cattle, - - cattle, do you EID those at the
3 plant, I mean at the feedlot?
4

5 MR. MURRAY: Through our alliance program
6 I'll send you guys - - our website. We've got
7 what's called a Partnership for Quality program.
8 There's about 35,000, other cows that are on it.
9 And we do EID those cattle. That would be the
10 only example. I still use - - ones. But we
11 record those numbers, and that's basically the
12 carcass data like - - was saying back to our
13 alliance customers.

14 MR. PEEK: Okay. So you don't EID the
15 cattle you buy from - - or Shasta that aren't
16 already EID-tagged?

17 MR. MURRAY: No, the only time I'll EID
18 anything special, Brad, is if they would have an
19 Angus source tag in them or something - - that's
20 just a visual tag, 'cause I want to be able to
21 track those cattle within my RFID system
22 electronically, and not have to reference back
23 to the visual tag. And I can attach that,
24 whatever that Angus source number is or whoever
25 the visual tag is to that RFID within our

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1 system, and that way I can manage it
2 electronically and not have a bunch of
3 paperwork.
4

5 MR. PEEK: Last quick question for a minute
6 anyways is you use a low frequency?

7 MR. MURRAY: Tom, what are we using?

8 MR. TOM POLICH: You can use both - -.

9 MR. MURRAY: Tom's our rep, so yeah, we're
10 using the half duplex, I guess.

11 MR. POLICH: Half duplex.

12 MR. PEEK: Okay, thanks. I just think
13 eventually if we're ever going to go, for this
14 program - - work, and if it ever does give a
15 feeder, somehow we got to get to ultra-high
16 frequency, or we build - -.

17 MR. MURRAY: I agree with that, Brad. It's
18 just whatever. It's kind of one of those
19 things, and the disease component is very
20 important. We're all concerned about all of
21 that. No foot and mouth and stuff. But I am
22 concerned about access to the markets and mainly
23 the Pacific Rim is what we're focused, we don't
24 do NHTC. We'll go into the Middle East a little
25 bit, to the UAD and different things, but it's

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1
2 more, I'm more focused on getting these products
3 over to the Pacific Rim. So that's kind of how
4 we're structured right now, but yeah, I agree
5 with you. As the technology advances and the
6 cost comes down we need to get to - - high
7 frequency.

8 MR. PEEK: Thank you.

9 DR. JONES: If I could, I wanted to add one
10 more comment to the question about traceability
11 into the markets. So it's true that the
12 traceability to market has been fairly
13 successful, but our bigger problem is if there's
14 not good individual ID on a cow at harvest. And
15 that ID isn't correlated with the correct
16 carcass, we're tracing 1 of 50 animals to the
17 market. And then at the market that's going to
18 potentially hundreds of sources.

19 So while the traceability, the markets are
20 doing a good job with records, it doesn't
21 diminish the need for improving our ability to
22 add individual identification and have those
23 collected and correlated with whatever, wherever
24 you find the disease. So I just want to add
25 that.

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1
2 MS. GRIMES: Any other questions?

3 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: I just had a quick
4 question for Annette. You mentioned our
5 database being cumbersome to utilize and I just
6 wanted to make sure I knew which one that was.

7 DR. JONES: It's the-

8 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: [Interposing] AIMS
9 [phonetic]?

10 DR. JONES: Yeah, for the - -. Yes, AIMS.

11 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: For redistribution,
12 okay. That was the first time I had heard that
13 so I just wanted to clarify what that was in
14 regards to.

15 DR. KARLE: And I'll second that too. I'll
16 be perfectly honest. I would be guilty of not
17 recording my redistribution - - electronic
18 website. I've got the numbers on a piece of
19 paper, and every time I try to go to the website
20 and log in I need to get a new password, and
21 then once I do get that I can't remember which
22 one to select. So I just wait until the - -
23 USDA folks show up at my door every five years,
24 and I give them a list and they happily do it
25 for me. So I agree that could be a little

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easier.

DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: The fact that you recorded them at all I think is a step in the right direction.

MS. GRIMES: Okay, anything else? I had one quick question for Forrest, I don't know, you said earlier in your statement, you said that an animal disease traceability system needs to operate at the speed of commerce and have no disadvantages to certain businesses. I'd like to find out, pick your brain a little bit more about what exactly that means.

MR. MANGAN: All right, so when I talk about disadvantage of certain business, I talked specifically about livestock markets. The fact that we see limited enforcement majority of the time, not saying all the time, is done at the livestock markets and not elsewhere, to us that's a disadvantage, a competitive disadvantage to the markets.

MR. PEEK: I got a lot comments and I got the go ahead from Sunny. I can say anything I want to out of left field, right? Anyway I want to talk about a disadvantage personally, is

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1 we're in Northern California - - Shasta
2 Livestock, and we probably draw, I wish I had
3 the percentage, but I'm guessing we draw 40 to
4 50% of our animals from either Oregon, Nevada,
5 and we get them as far away as Washington,
6 Idaho, Utah. Cattle will actually come to our
7 sale barn. So if say a producer of Oregon,
8 which we'll get the most of our out-of-state
9 cattle, the highest percentage, and they got to
10 get charged an extra six or seven bucks for us
11 to tag those cattle at our auction yard, because
12 it's not just the \$3 cost of the tag or the \$4
13 cost of the tag, it's all the labor and all the
14 expenses that Forrest has spoken about. And
15 then you've got the issue of - - the cattle.
16 We're - - off of them. We may be injuring them.
17 We may be injuring some of our people there, the
18 animal and human welfare issue in this whole
19 tagging environment, that people seem to forget
20 about. It's not just the tags.

21 So anyways, I am at a disadvantage if
22 somebody says, hey, why should I send them to
23 Shasta? I can send them up to Madras, Oregon,
24 and I'm not going to get charged that six,
25

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1
2 seven, ten, who knows what the actual cost is,
3 labor and everything involved.

4 MS. GRIMES: Okay, well, I think the panel
5 has done a great job. They're sticking around
6 for the rest of the day I'm hoping. And there
7 will be opportunity for conversations in the
8 hallway and in the smaller groups maybe later.
9 But a round of applause for them, thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. GRIMES: So we'll go ahead and take a
12 break, about 15 minutes, and then we will come
13 back and give you an opportunity to share your
14 thoughts more broadly with the group before we
15 do breakouts later after lunch. Thank you.

16 [END MORNING SESSION PART 2]

17 [START AFTERNOON SESSION]

18 MS. GRIMES: So we've lost some folks, but
19 that's okay. So it looks like we're going to
20 have...we're going to put our flexibility theme to
21 the test. And we're switching gears just a
22 little bit. We're not going to do four
23 traditional breakout groups in four different
24 rooms. We're probably all going to stay
25 together here. And you're going to have some of

1 the local folks leading you through some of the
2 questions that we had opposed in those break out
3 sheets, or the break out group sessions. So
4 there's a handout in your packet, might be nice
5 to pull that out. Yeah, and we're going to pop
6 them up here, and then they're going to take
7 over.

8 [Background conversation]

9 DR. BOB BONIFACIO: You're going to get some
10 colors. Okay, good afternoon everyone. I'm Bob
11 Bonifacio. I'm one of the field veterinary
12 medical officers for California. I'm the ADT
13 lead for USDA, for California. And I'm going to
14 be moderating the second half of today's
15 regional meeting. So the original plan as was
16 discussed was we're going to break out into four
17 groups. But we don't want any of you being solo
18 in one of those groups, so we're going to
19 actually consolidate everyone into one group.
20 And we're going to go through the four
21 questions, and capture some...primarily try to
22 capture a consensus of dealing with some of
23 these key points of interest. So as we get
24 started let's just...for those of you who...all of
25

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1 you can read English, that's good.

2 So officially identification, when is it
3 needed? So we discussed some of these topic...or
4 this particular topic. And we discussed some of
5 the issues regarding this topic in the panel
6 discussion and the open mic. So it looks like
7 some of this is going to be review. But we'd
8 like to capture a consensus here, so as we go
9 forward we have some, regarding the keys points,
10 is we have some feedback from you with regard
11 to, when is it needed.

12 So let's look at this first key point of
13 interest here. So what are the most significant
14 challenges regarding official identification of
15 cattle and bison in the current framework? So
16 we talked earlier about getting at the producer
17 level, facilities that are required to actually
18 tag cattle. So along those lines we're going to
19 open it up to the group here. And we do have
20 another microphone that we could move around.
21 Open it up to the group here and let's capture
22 some of those comments. We have Tanya
23 [phonetic] over there driving the flipchart.
24 She is licensed to do that by the way, so just
25

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1 so you know.

2
3 DR. JONES: So we're talking about - - your
4 capturing the discussion from this morning,
5 right. So - - has already been talked about so
6 that we can-

7 DR. BONIFACIO: [Interposing] So Annette
8 brings up a good point, is that we want to get
9 everybody out of here before you're in a parking
10 lot to try to get out of here. So we did
11 capture some points this morning. But if
12 there's anything that you feel we didn't capture
13 this morning, let's bring that to the table now,
14 so we can augment what we captured this morning.
15 'Cause we have everything recorded from this
16 morning, correct? So if there's anything you
17 see based on these three issues, if there's
18 anything that we didn't cover this morning that
19 you'd like to bring to our attention, now's the
20 time.

21 FEMALE VOICE 1: Is the current frame work
22 sufficient for when we require official
23 identification?

24 DR. BONIFACIO: So that question, is the
25 current framework sufficient? If it's not, then

1 we'd like to hear either why it's not, and
2 particularly if there's any solutions that would
3 bring that framework into a workable solution.
4

5 DR. KARLE: This is Mike Karle. I think it
6 should be noted again that in California, at
7 least on the dairies, it's required once they
8 leave the premises of origin, where they were
9 born. So I think that would be a step in the
10 right direction for the USDA to take too, just
11 since it seems to be an easier jump compared to
12 at least the beef industry. I'd like to see it
13 personally in the beef industry as well but...

14 MS. GRIMES: Any thoughts back there? Let
15 me go back. Thank you.

16 MR. PEEK: One of the issues that we find is
17 we have a lot of small producers. To give an
18 example, two weeks ago we had 3,700 head and
19 over 200 consigners. And many of these
20 producers, here's progressive producers, and
21 then there's what you could consider the back
22 yard grower. Little hobby, a little extra money
23 annually. Maybe they have 10 cows; maybe they
24 have 20 cows. And we asked a local vet on this
25 subject, if it becomes mandatory that they have

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1 to tag them, and our facility is not going to do
2 it, how do we get the grower to do this? You
3 know, we can supply them information, let them
4 know what the regulations are. But what's the
5 process of him identifying or tagging these
6 animals? Are they able to come to you and let's
7 say he's got ten head he wants to market? Will
8 you give him ten silver Brites to take home and
9 tag? Or are you going to be necessary to go to
10 his facility and have a vet call and personally
11 tag them yourself? And that was a hard question
12 for them to answer. They didn't really know,
13 and they're a progressive vet clinic. And so I
14 think one of the biggest issues when it comes
15 down to, we really don't have concerns with the
16 progressive growers. They're doing things
17 right, they're using all the right genetics,
18 they're breeding with the top bulls in the
19 country. And pounds is an issue for them. And
20 when they go to market they always get
21 recommendations from all the markets and or the
22 videos. How should I do it, what's the best way
23 to do it? And we try to advise them on that.
24 But there's about half the country that are the

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1 mom-and pop0operations that don't know sick 'em
2 about marketing and tagging and vaccinating.
3 And they might have a little pin in the corner
4 of their field. And you got to back a stock
5 trailer up to it and load them. They don't have
6 a chute on their facility, a working squeeze
7 chute. And these are the animals that possibly
8 could be the problems for health down the road.
9 So how do they get addressed? And this kind of
10 comes back to laying the responsibility onto the
11 markets. Well these people got to come to you
12 to market cattle, so you've got to do it. Well
13 we're not mandating this. And again I said this
14 earlier; USDA is mandating this. So it's up to
15 USDA to implement and put a sound program into
16 place that takes care of those smaller growers.
17 Because there's thousands of them across the
18 country. And that's going to be the hardest
19 part. It's not the 2 or 300-head growers or
20 500-head growers. It's the small guys that will
21 be the issue of getting ID'd.

23 DR. JONES: This is Annette Jones, state
24 veterinarian. I just wanted to comment on your
25 comment. In our position, we have a lot of food

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1 safety programs. We have egg safety programs,
2 meat, slaughter programs. Lots of programs, so
3 as you can imagine we get petitioned frequently
4 from small producers saying our food safety
5 requirements are beyond what they can afford.
6 And I too am a small grower also. You know I
7 have five cows with calves, so that definitely
8 fits your model. But I also think there's, I'm
9 cognizant of people like Harris and others.
10 This is the food supply. So it's not a game;
11 it's not a hobby. We're providing an end
12 product to the public. And it's something that
13 I think we need to take seriously. So in my
14 opinion, what the small growers need to say is
15 what part of the system is irrelevant for
16 producing a product that's good for the
17 consumer? And then nobody should do it, not
18 just the small growers, but the large growers
19 also. If it's important to the consumer and the
20 safety of the food supply and the integrity of
21 what we do, which is a very serious business,
22 everybody should do it. So I think that, I
23 personally believe that the small growers will
24 find a way. 'Cause they're no, they're bright

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1
2 so they'll find a way to get it done, if they
3 have to.

4 DR. LESLIE BUTLER: So just to follow, I'm
5 Bees Butler, UC Davis, agricultural economics.
6 So just following up on what Annette has just
7 said, and the comment that was made earlier this
8 morning about the fact that there are huge
9 economies of scale in this whole thing, I mean
10 the small producers really get hit as you
11 pointed out earlier. And so one of the things
12 that we could be looking at is creating
13 institutions, cooperatives, I know that's
14 probably a dirty word for some people, some form
15 of institution that takes care of or takes most
16 of the economies of scale out of the equation,
17 so that everybody sorts of stand on a very equal
18 footing. I mean if we're going to make this
19 thing work, you have to allow everybody to be,
20 to stand on an equal footing. Okay?

21 [Crosstalk]

22 MR. PEEK: I want you to understand that I'm
23 not opposed to animal ID. I'm for ID. What I'm
24 concerned with is how's it's going to be
25 implemented. And those smaller growers are

1 going to get serviced and become part of the
2 system. And there's a lot of those people that
3 you're talking about that are uneducated people.
4 We deal with a lot of minority people. They can
5 barely fill out a yellow slip, a transportation
6 slip. So I'm not disagreeing with you on that
7 this is a good thing for our health system in
8 the cattle production here in the United States.
9 I think it's important; we've got to keep a
10 viable product. And we have to make sure that
11 we don't have a disaster.
12

13 But these people, and I say these people
14 respectfully, they don't understand all these
15 rules and regulations. Until you sit in a
16 trailer line and tag these cattle, and visit
17 with these people, and they call in and say hey,
18 you got a trailer for me, for tomorrow, where
19 are you at? Well I'm over here. Well where's
20 that? You know you've got to communicate with
21 these people. And they're very nice people;
22 they're honest, hardworking people. But they
23 don't understand all this stuff. And this state
24 is a minority state. And so my point is, not
25 that we're going to do away with ID, that's not

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1 what I'm after. What I'm saying is we need to
2 address those smaller producers. They need help
3 to get into the system. And you'd be surprised
4 how many cattle they produce across this
5 country. It's not a small deal; it's a big
6 deal. Because average cow herd in United States
7 is around 35 cows.

9 MALE VOICE 3: When we're talking about cost
10 for our smaller producers, are you talking about
11 facility costs or...because the tags, three, four
12 bucks, why pay 75 cents more if you're only
13 going to buy five tags? Where is it costing
14 more?

15 MR. PEEK: Are you asking me?

16 MALE VOICE 3: Yeah.

17 MR. PEEK: I'm not talking cost at all; I'm
18 just talking about the process of getting them
19 tagged. And - - program, it's just they don't
20 have the facilities to do it.

21 MALE VOICE 3: But we're all talking about
22 having the cost on the small producers who's 10
23 or 15 cows. They might sell ten calves a day at
24 whatever sale. Where's the cost, the cost to
25 the market would incur the cost on the labor to

1 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY MEETING 119
2 have to tag them. At the point, yeah, you'll
3 pass in on. But what are we talking about, five
4 bucks a head?

5 DR. BUTLER: No, it's very large actually.
6 Some of the equipment that's required to do
7 this, some of the equipment that's required to
8 do this whole thing, it's not just tags. It's
9 the wands and all the stuff that goes along with
10 having RFID. Or tagging or whatever, however it
11 is that you identify. And I know that many
12 small producers probably aren't interested in
13 it. But there's a very large cost for managing
14 to track this stuff. And so if you've only got
15 15, 20, 30 cows, it could be as high as \$30 a
16 head just to buy your way into such a system.
17 Whereas for a large producer who's got many 3 or
18 400 or more cows, you're looking at maybe three
19 or four bucks a head. So if you look at it on a
20 per head basis, that's where the economies of
21 scale are huge for the small producers. And
22 that's why they can't afford to get in.

23 MALE VOICE 3: But they don't need a reason
24 - - .

25 [Crosstalk]

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1 FEMALE VOICE 2: They don't have cattle
2 handlers.
3

4 MALE VOICE 3: But if they charge five bucks
5 a head - -tagging - - most of the cattle are
6 going to be single, or whatever. You guys
7 disagree with me anytime. I've got five head;
8 I'm hauling them into Shasta Turlock. I don't
9 have them EID'd; I don't have them tagged.
10 Probably two heifers and three steers, vice
11 versa. They're typically, going to put one of
12 these tags, because one's going to weigh 700
13 lbs., one's going to weigh 600 lbs. Or it might
14 fall, okay, so they're going to be singles, what
15 we'd call a single. They're going to run them
16 through whatever their tagging facility is and
17 stick a back tag. Or somebody's going to take a
18 back tag and put it on a paddle and slap it on
19 him. Or gently apply it. The ranchers doesn't
20 need, and at the ranch level, what I'm saying is
21 you don't need all that infrastructure. If you
22 got an RFID tag and a gun, application gun form
23 Allflex, they make them, and actually
24 interchangeable with the standard air tag,
25 you're looking, don't know what one of those

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1 costs nowadays, 25, \$30 for one of them tagging
2 guns. And they last forever. And you apply a
3 \$4 EID at the ranch level, that's \$4. If I can
4 get the tags bought for \$3 at Harris and they \$4
5 there, \$5 disadvantage to me. So where does
6 this huge \$30 come from?
7

8 [Crosstalk]

9 DR. BUTLER: You're absolutely right, and
10 particularity for the cattle industry, that is
11 absolutely correct. They don't need, they're
12 not using this for management purposes. But for
13 a dairy producer for example, who is using it
14 for management purposes, he's got to have a
15 bunch of equipment. And so a small producer,
16 which most of whom we don't have in California,
17 but for small producers, it's impossible. And I
18 think that's part of what we're talking about
19 when we, and we should be talking about all of
20 the animal industry, not just cattle. Okay?
21 And I understand you know, that a lot of the
22 opposition for this type of system comes from
23 the cattle industry. But all producers have
24 these economies of scale varying, depending on
25 what their requirements are.

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1
2 MALE VOICE 3: I was just referring to the
3 beef industry and being able to trace beef
4 cattle, not having management practices in place
5 for RFID system as part of your management deal.
6 I understand where that would be significantly
7 more. But just meeting the requirements of this
8 program if you had to buy five RFIDs to put in
9 five head of cattle, and they had to apply them
10 at Shasta or Turlock, when they might put the
11 back tag on there and they're singles, that's
12 what I'm going at. The small producer doesn't
13 have to buy a panel reader or different types of
14 systems just to have five head. And if they
15 don't have facilities, a Powder River squeeze
16 chute or whatever kind of squeeze chute, hey
17 don't have to have \$30,000 worth of facilities
18 to apply a \$5 tag. What?

19 [Crosstalk]

20 MALE VOICE 3: [Interposing] I don't want to
21 put it on you Brad, but.

22 [Crosstalk]

23 DR. JONES: So let me bring you guys back,
24 just a second. So think about what we started
25 off talking about, 'cause all this comes into

1
2 play, but I want to get back to the original
3 question, which I think I heard the answer to,
4 is someone said, birth premises. So is that the
5 ideal for where we want our traceability to
6 reflect, is birth premises? What you all just
7 said is going to tie into it. But is that where
8 you ID's should occur? Everybody? I see a lot
9 of heads nodding, okay. So if you say that they
10 have to be...do they have to be tagged at the
11 birth premises? I think we would like that,
12 right? We would like—

13 MR. PEEK: Easier on us.

14 DR. JONES: Right, so then another thing to
15 think about is right now you have the capability
16 to be an approved tagging site. So if you think
17 about a program like scrapie, where hopefully
18 the majority are tagged coming off of the
19 well...depends on the place. But so if you made
20 it where it had to be from the birth premises
21 and you had a fair number that were tagged in
22 the birth premises, or with change of ownership
23 or whatever that might look like, you wouldn't
24 be tagging every animal. You would have some of
25 these smaller producers that would come in and

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1 maybe not have their animals tagged, so it
2 wouldn't be a 100% of the animals probably
3 coming into your location. But you would still
4 have the capability if you like that to offer
5 that function as an approved tagging site.
6

7 DR. BONIFACIO: So what California's new
8 rule is on the dairy steers, is they're required
9 to have them when they leave birth premises.
10 However, they can be ID'd at an approved tagging
11 site, which most of the markets are. So to be
12 honest with you, in about a year or so once
13 we've seen what happens with this program, we'll
14 see what kind of idea, what percentage we're
15 actually tagged before they come in. And what
16 percentage the markets are going to have to tag
17 them. It will be interesting to find out, if
18 you look at like the scrapie program, you'll
19 talk to some markets that they're still the same
20 percentage tagged from seven years prior, that
21 nobody else...they're just not doing it.

22 DR. JONES: One of the things that I wanted
23 to mention is what you've said, that I think
24 we've heard varying comments on is you would
25 pass that cost along. We've heard markets say

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1 that they can't do that, so...

2
3 MALE VOICE 4: And the fact that - -
4 commission, what you're charging them in the
5 market, you do not want to have a charge - -.

6 [Crosstalk]

7 DR. BONIFACIO: In terms of passing the
8 charge, I mean that's, there will be markets
9 that will do that. But in actuality, the
10 markets don't want to pass any more cost along
11 to the producers than they have to. They just
12 simply don't want to do it.

13 MR. KENT FOWLER: Yeah, this is Kent Fowler
14 with CDFA in California. So couple issues that
15 have come up lately that yeah, I think ideally
16 these calves would ID'd when they're processed,
17 when they're branded, etc., whether it's an RFID
18 or a silver Brite which has basically no cost.
19 That would be the ideal time that that
20 identification is put in those calves. That
21 solves the problem for the sales yard. But
22 getting back to that whole issue, and I agree
23 with Annette, even the small producers,
24 it...they're going to figure out how to get it
25 done. But I think the bottom line is, we all

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1 have to play a part in that process. From the
2 regulators from our standpoint, it's a matter of
3 outreach and education getting that out there.
4 I think the sales yards need to play a part.
5 And I understand the sales yards not wanting to
6 for a number of reasons be the ones that are
7 tagging those animals. But the fact of the
8 matter is, and this is probably an inappropriate
9 comment for me because I'm not in sales yard
10 management or ownership, but you know,
11 realistically you're probably going to have to
12 charge some of those small producers a
13 reasonable fee to put those tags in. And I'm
14 pretty sure that they'll figure out pretty quick
15 that they need to do that at home. Especially
16 if they're putting in silver Brites to avoid
17 that expense. But the point I'm making is, I
18 think all facets of the industry, regulators,
19 sales yards, private individuals, industry, the
20 industry groups, cattle groups, we all have to
21 play a part in pushing this thing forward. And
22 certainly the sooner that outreach and education
23 can get out there, the sooner the sales yards
24 will be receiving those cattle already ID'd.

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1
2 And life will be better for everybody.

3 DR. JONES: And so one of the way's I'd like
4 to capture this is so if we back up a little
5 bit. So we talked about the fact that we'd like
6 them to be tagged to reflect the birth premises.
7 But some factors to consider in that would be,
8 we're really going to have to up our game. In
9 terms of outreach to these small producers. We
10 have to also be aware of costs. So that's when
11 I bulleted Tanya just to say, and maybe you've
12 done that, but these are things we have to
13 consider if we would implement something like
14 that. So approved tagging sights, and we've
15 heard this quite a bit from the markets. I mean
16 I understand you don't want to tag everything
17 that comes in. But it seems to me you feel
18 that's a valuable service that you're able to
19 provide. So we like the approved tagging site
20 for the livestock markets? Asking you guys.

21 DR. BONIFACIO: Are you asking? I mean it's
22 needed. If they have to ID'd when they come to
23 the market, you're going to have to be an
24 approved tagging sight. So whether you like it
25 or not, if you want to tag them and you want the

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1 cattle to come there, you're going to have to be
2 an approved tagging sight.
3

4 DR. JONES: And how is that working?

5 DR. BONIFACIO: I'll let these guys answer
6 that.

7 MALE VOICE 5: It's not a profit center.
8 Yeah, we signed up for that, and we will do
9 that. I just want to add to the point that you
10 made, Troy. It's not about the cost; it's about
11 getting these people to think about this. And
12 get them on board because yeah we will recoup
13 that cost. But it does take a lot of labor, and
14 it does take a lot of time. And in our business
15 is pretty labor-intensive just like you guys.
16 And when we're having sales...you know large
17 sales, especially in the spring, and you're
18 going to have to run you know 3 or 400 through
19 to be tagged for this ID program, that maybe the
20 progressive producers did, but these other folks
21 didn't, it takes a lot of time out of your
22 schedule. And it takes more staff, so you got
23 more labor, your workman's comp goes up, because
24 there's always somebody that will get injured
25 doing this. You've got wear and tear on your

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1 facility, your chute. So there's hidden costs
2 that you can't always charge for that you'd like
3 to. But you don't want to run away your
4 business as well, so anyways, that was...

6 FEMALE VOICE 2: You guys as approved
7 tagging sights, realize for Joe who's got five
8 calves that are coming in, you can actually
9 assign him, prior to his arrival, those five
10 tags. And then charge him big time if they
11 don't come in tagged. So when we trace it, it
12 will go to Joe. And it will be no labor on your
13 guy's part. But it will be on his.

14 MALE VOICE 4: I wasn't aware of that. So
15 you're saying that we'll have tags furnished to
16 us, and we'll assign those tags to those
17 growers? And it's up to them to do it at home.
18 The ones that we know are coming I guess. But
19 as we all know, we get quite a drive in the day
20 of the sale.

21 MALE VOICE 5: Yeah, Joe's going to say, ah
22 you got - -.

23 MALE VOICE 4: Yeah, and what happens, I'm
24 not trying to be argumentative. What happens
25 is, people drive in and seeing us tagging other

1 people's cattle say, well you're doing so and
2 so, you could do mine too. And before, you know
3 it grows. And it's a bigger issue than most
4 think. And you have to there to see it, to
5 understand that.
6

7 DR. JONES: But you're charging, right?

8 DR. BONIFACIO: So what I'm hearing is, the
9 focus, the outreach, the education Needs to
10 focus on the farm, on the premises. And that
11 needs to be the major effort to get as many of
12 those smaller producers to tag prior to moving
13 off of the farm. The tagging site, the service
14 that's provided by...by the yard is there to
15 capture those...for lack of a better term. They
16 just don't have the facilities to tag. Now if
17 they're doing any type of processing on the farm
18 or on their ranch, then they could potentially
19 put in a tag, if they have those tags available
20 to them, which would be our role as...as the
21 regulatory agencies to get them those tags. And
22 make sure they know that if they have the
23 opportunity to get those tags in prior to
24 leaving, then that's optimum. The backup is the
25 tagging sites and the service provided. But we

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1 want to limit that to as little activity as
2 possible. That's what I'm capturing from this
3 discussion right now. For the sake of time so
4 we can move on, is there anything else regarding
5 this particular issue, question that we want to
6 add before we want to move onto the next
7 question? 'Cause we are going to have a large
8 outreach and education over this next year. We
9 are going to really target your customers that
10 are bringing in these animals that aren't
11 tagged. So we're going to be working with you.
12 Just so you know we're going to be working with
13 you to find those consigners, so we can go visit
14 them and get them tags. Okay, so that's going
15 to be a partnership between us and the yards to
16 help us find those small producers that, in some
17 cases the large dairies that are bringing in
18 calves that aren't tagged, to work with them to
19 get them tags and to educate them on what they
20 need to do.

22 MR. FOWLER: Yeah, I think everybody can
23 hear me. So I think that's one of the issues
24 Bob, that came up in our discussion we had at
25 lunch, is that's part of the challenge, is how

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1 we get the outreach and education in particular
2 to some of the small growers that we've been
3 talking about. You know they likely, they're
4 bringing in five calves; they may not be a
5 member of CCA. They may not belong to a dairy,
6 they may not belong to any organization, they're
7 a small grower. And the trick is how we get
8 that education material to them. I think that's
9 one of the challenges.
10

11 MR. GREG SAMMONS: Greg Sammons, CDFA and
12 just to respond to that, Kent, there's a deal
13 that came up, in a scrapie deal, where out in
14 the sales yards, where we put these flyers out
15 to educate on the scrapie tag, but you know a
16 lot of people don't get them or whatever. And
17 also this tagging deal, if it's free, again
18 they're going to let the yards do it, if it's
19 free. Not all the yards are on board' they
20 vary. The price that they charge, some don't
21 charge, and so it just kind of varies. And that
22 comes into effect. But one of the things that I
23 think would help is they may not look at that
24 flyer sitting there. But if there's a small
25 descriptive, this is what's going about, and

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1
2 it's placed in the envelope with a check, when
3 they pick up that check, they'll take time to
4 see what's in there with that check. They may
5 not look at the billboard or anything like that,
6 but...

7 DR. BONIFACIO: Yeah, so that's a good point
8 Greg. So you know with that, there's several
9 ideas that we're floating around on how to reach
10 these individuals, and we've talked about
11 putting some information in the checks. We put
12 out calendars for the avian influenza and the
13 avian health information and surveillance on
14 that. So there's a possibility that maybe we
15 can come up with a calendar with regard to these
16 types of issues and distribute those calendars
17 and bilingual calendars to educate those groups
18 as well. So there's some solutions that we'll
19 be working towards to target that population of
20 growers, that we want to get on board and have
21 them tag at the farms.

22 MALE VOICE 5: I'm from Fresno County; we're
23 pretty diverse. I'm guessing you guys are going
24 to do this in several different languages?
25 Maybe Spanish, Mong. Cindy Tewes [phonetic]

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1 would be a good one here, because you can go to
2 her sale yard and hear about seven or eight
3 different languages spoken within 10 ft. of each
4 other so we're very diverse down there. You
5 guys going to kind of regionally have some
6 literature?
7

8 DR. BONIFACIO: So a good point. So we all
9 talk about you know Spanish being one of the
10 major other languages in California. But here
11 are several other languages. And if I was to
12 move forward with a strategy to address that, I
13 would find someone in the community that speaks
14 both English and the language of that
15 predominate community. And then try to work
16 with them on that as well. So there are
17 cultural centers, and I've done work around the
18 world, and we find somebody who can translate
19 for us and go that route. If that's what it's
20 going to take to try and reel in as many as
21 those smaller producers as possible, then that's
22 what it's going to take, and it will just take
23 some time to get there. But that's a very good
24 point.

25 MALE VOICE 6: I'm just going to move onto

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1 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY MEETING 135
2 bullet point number two. I think I have a
3 question on farm of origin. How does the
4 national ADT define farm of origin?

5 [Crosstalk]

6 DR. BONIFACIO: Farm of origin from my
7 understanding, which one are you, when should
8 official ID identification—

9 MALE VOICE 6: [Interposing] No, I'm
10 talking...

11 DR. BONIFACIO: Occur right here?

12 MALE VOICE 6: This handout here.

13 DR. BONIFACIO: When should, to what
14 location?

15 MALE VOICE 6: I guess.

16 DR. BONIFACIO: So farm of origin, from my
17 understanding is, birth premises.

18 DR. JONES: When - - said it over here, but
19 basically birth premise is what was brought up
20 here.

21 MALE VOICE 6: Yeah, I think there's a
22 little difference in California or different
23 definitions across the United States of what farm
24 of origin is. Like if you buy cattle and keep
25 them X-amount of months and then resell them.

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2 DR. JONES: For the purposes of this, the
3 first thing I heard which is what I thought - -.

4 MALE VOICE 6: Is there anything in the
5 national rule about a four month...must be on the
6 ranch for four months?

7 DR. JONES: Not in the traceability. Oh
8 right, yeah, no it's in some of our programs - -
9 . Not in the traceability.

10 MALE VOICE 6: But I'm not talking about
11 being four months of age. I'm talking about
12 being at a premises for four months.

13 DR. JONES: Yes.

14 MALE VOICE 6: Yes, there is?

15 DR. JONES: Yes, in program - - regulations.
16 Not in the - -.

17 [Crosstalk]

18 MALE VOICE 6: Yeah. I have an issue
19 with...and that's what I'm trying to figure out if
20 it's national or just California built it in.
21 Said something about the farm of origin, being
22 four months. Anybody from California want to
23 clarify that for me?

24 [Crosstalk]

25 DR. EDMONDSON: Yes. It is in California

1 regulations, farm of origin they've been there
2 for four months. And it was taken from the
3 federal regs, yes.
4

5 MALE VOICE 6: So you're saying it is in the
6 federal aids.

7 DR. EDMONDSON: It's - - the definition - -.

8 MALE VOICE 6: Okay. But I do have an issue
9 with that, because especially the speed of
10 commerce, Bob is...I know why it's in there. It's
11 probably in there for trader cattle. But in
12 this day and age, this market is so volatile.
13 We're going against every free enterprise,
14 capitalistic means of life. If I bought cattle
15 a month and a half ago, and the markets gone up
16 15 bucks - - which it did until the last few
17 days, I should have the right, an opportunity as
18 an American Citizen to sell those cattle any
19 darn time I want to sell them.

20 [Crosstalk]

21 DR. BONIFACIO: Yeah.

22 MALE VOICE 2: But it's in there somewhere
23 you got to have them for four months.

24 DR. BONIFACIO: Yeah, we may be-

25 DR. JONES: [interposing] - - state and

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1 federal.

2
3 MALE VOICE 6: It's very possible...it's very
4 possible I could be confused. But I know it's
5 been an issue in my mind ever since this has
6 come out. So I guess we should look at the
7 language and make sure it's not...

8 DR. JONES: I think it's a difference
9 between the state regulation that just came out
10 And the program disease regulations that we
11 have. For traceability, we do not define - -.

12 MALE VOICE 6: All right, we'll look at it
13 later on I guess.

14 DR. BONIFACIO: Okay. Movement documents,
15 give everybody a chance to read that. And I
16 know we covered some of this earlier as well.
17 So after reading this, if there's anything
18 anybody would like to add, to our previous
19 discussion, we've talked about a lot of
20 exceptions, when it comes to movement. There
21 are a lot of exceptions with regard to official
22 ID and the movement documents that are required.
23 So we know that can get rather confusing. So
24 that's one of the questions we have, is does
25 that need to be a little more concrete with

1 regard to what it takes to move animals, with
2 regard to ID and movement documents? Or are all
3 exceptions with the flexibility in the program,
4 is that doing more harm than good? I can tell
5 you from personal experience, when people ask
6 me, since hey you're the ADT lead now, and they
7 ask me, they give me a certain group of animals
8 and they ask me what's required, I have to go
9 look it up because there's still, somewhat...I
10 don't know it off the top of my head, because
11 there's a lot of exceptions. So it's takes time
12 to learn all this. So if I'm in the trenches as
13 a regulatory vet, that you can imagine what the
14 rest of the folks in the industry are trying to
15 figure out.

17 DR. KARLE: I would agree with your
18 assessment. And you know I'm to the point now,
19 where even if it's to a neighboring state. I
20 just automatically go to the website and look it
21 up. And I think from a United States, holistic
22 view it would be nice to get some kind of
23 agreement between the states as far as where to
24 look up those documents. I know some states are
25 very easy to look it up; they update a PDF

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1 pretty regularly or something. And some states
2 actually direct you to their code of federal
3 regulations. Or not code of federal
4 regulations, but state regulations. And you
5 have to read through all the definitions and
6 stuff in order to even to get to the meat of
7 what you want so. So I think some kind of a
8 national clearing house for all of the
9 regulations in a readable format would be
10 helpful.

11
12 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Just a quick comment,
13 and I'm not sure if you're familiar with the
14 portal that NIAA and USHA developed for
15 interstate movement requirements. Okay, you put
16 in the types of cattle being moved and they'll
17 come back listing the state requirements for
18 those classes of cattle. Does it work for that?

19 DR. KARLE: Yeah, there are some states that
20 it's still not a 100% yet. But you're right in
21 75% of it - -

22 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: - -support the
23 development of that - -.

24 DR. KARLE: I think that could be the
25 advertised - - too, because I just found - - one

1 day, I had no idea.

2 DR. BONIFACIO: Any other comments?

3 Recommendations, grips regarding these movement
4 documents? So I know California has state
5 agreements with Oregon and Nevada, with regard
6 to specific shipping requirements. So that
7 helps a little bit with regard to moving animals
8 back and forth. But this can be challenging to
9 say the least. I think my comment on this is,
10 it'd be nice to have some sort of, other than
11 VSPS, the USDA's interstate certificate of
12 veterinarian inspection platform there. And
13 then you've got Global VetLink. It would be
14 nice to have some sort of system that would be a
15 little more user-friendly to move animals on.

16 DR. JONES: I think this is an area, and a
17 lot of my counter parts and other states is will
18 I'm sure disagree with me, but some would agree.
19 I think it would be really nice if we had one,
20 like as you said, easily accessible, user-
21 friendly document that's not tied to any state
22 in particular. So it's one that meets the needs
23 of interstate movement. Because mostly ICVIs
24 that are approved by the states are for outgoing
25

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1 animals. But as animal health officials we're
2 honestly more concerned about incoming animals.
3 So that's where we want it...that's the
4 information that we want. We want to be able to
5 say what we'd like to see on the incoming
6 animals, whereas we only have control of the
7 outgoing documents except with the regulation.
8 So I would support USDA exploring, funding
9 moving forward with...it's going to take forever,
10 I understand that. I know how IT processes
11 work, but you know maybe scrap the STS and get
12 with the program. And look at a UPS or somebody
13 and use some really robust accessible, uniform
14 documentation that we can all tap into when we
15 need information.
16

17 DR. BONIFACIO: Good point. Anybody else
18 with this one? I know at the yards you'll have
19 cattle being shipped out of the yard on any
20 given day. And you got the vet there
21 doing...putting together the health certificate.
22 Any issues you see there that can be improved
23 with regard with these types of movements?

24 MALE VOICE 3: It's just a late at night
25 deal. You know to get all of them or get on a

1 website. The only issue is like somebody said
2 earlier. You know our sales on Friday and maybe
3 we don't get done until 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
4 at night. And just getting a hold of somebody
5 for those cattle that are going to ship out
6 overnight. Or the truck's already in line.

8 DR. BONIFACIO: Okay. I just want to be
9 able to capture that. So if we're going to go
10 forward with some solutions...something that we
11 can at least consider on that one. Good, thank
12 you. Anything to add or are we ready to move to
13 number three here? Okay. So what we're looking
14 for here, at least with the current framework is
15 we're trying to capture for ideal...farm of
16 origin, premises, birth premises, all the way to
17 the termination point ideally, is what we're
18 looking for. Be able to at least get back to
19 the farm of origin, from the...I'd say the book
20 end, the final destination for that animal.
21 Which most of them is...is one of our slaughter
22 plants. So that's the current framework. Then
23 I need to be stand corrected by our subject
24 matter experts here.

25 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: So the current frame

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1 work is where the animal is officially
2 identified. So for animals, covered livestock,
3 moving interstate, Where they're officially ID'd
4 and then the termination point, as he mentioned,
5 slaughter. So is the current framework just for
6 you know adults moving interstate? Is that
7 framework sufficient for traceability?
8

9 MALE VOICE 2: Yeah, I got confused - -
10 California.

11 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: It's okay; it's okay.

12 DR. KARLE: I think Dr. Whiteford
13 [phonetic], this morning actually said it, or
14 Jones. Sorry, darn it. Darn it. She said it
15 this morning perfectly, you know we've got two
16 kinds of trace backs that we like. We've got
17 diseases that are moving rapidly or bio
18 terrorism-type events. And then we've got those
19 chronic diseases like BSE or something like
20 that. And I think an electronic EID serves
21 bother purposes if we apply those tags at farm
22 of origin. So I think that would be the ideal
23 system. And I think we're kind of halfway
24 there. We just need to inforce it.

25 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And by farm of origin,

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1 we're meaning birth herd for the purposes of
2 this discussion.

3
4 DR. KARLE: Yes.

5 DR. JONES: I also think that if the bookend
6 system were actually used 100% correctly, that
7 would probably pretty much get our traceability.
8 Because if you can know where that cow started
9 and know that you have the right cow at the end,
10 usually you could trace through paperwork in
11 between, it's slower, but you can you know,
12 we're pretty good. We've been pretty successful
13 at those traces. So I guess the issue is,
14 ideally I agree that's where we need to go - -
15 mentioned it this morning. But I think if we
16 can just improve how we do the way, I mean if we
17 just did the system we think we're doing now
18 correctly, we'd be a lot closer, but we're not.
19 So I think we need to...well maybe it's because of
20 the clips. Maybe it's because we're not using
21 RFID. But it's not working.

22 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: And so we don't have
23 tags...I think somebody brought it up earlier. We
24 don't have tag retirement. We try to pilot to
25 retire tags at slaughter so we can at least know

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1
2 in our trace backs if the animal is actually
3 dead. And we don't have to keep looking. And
4 it costs \$1 per noose tag, to enter those in a
5 system, hand enter then in a system. So
6 obviously that was scrapped; it wasn't feasible
7 to maintain that kind of cost.

8 DR. JONES: I mean that would be nice if we
9 retired the tags. But I don't think we
10 necessarily need to do that. What we really
11 need is, if every cow slaughtered, adult cow,
12 every cow that's covered under the current
13 framework that gets slaughtered has a tag, and
14 that tag is correctly correlated to the carcass,
15 traceability would be greatly enhanced. And I
16 think there's a lot of efforts to get there. So
17 I think that's a good place to focus right now.

18 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: The same time, if the
19 rest of the country would add into their
20 regulation, what California did to theirs, I
21 think there's two other states that have a
22 similar requirements of tagging dairy at their
23 birth premises, I think when we say bookend-
24 like, that kind of implies that we say it's a
25 bookend, but it's not the birth bookend. So I

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1
2 mean most parts of the country and animal can
3 move within the state, two, three, four, five
4 times and still not tagged. So by the time it
5 gets to slaughter, we have a lot of cattle that
6 are not covered by the regulation, because of
7 our limitation or restriction to interstate
8 movement. That kind of gets back to the first
9 point again. But I wanted to clarify that
10 because I think—

11 DR. JONES: [Interposing] I agree - -.

12 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Yeah, so one of the
13 biggest gaps is still in the current framework
14 is there are a lot of cattle that aren't
15 covered. Because we require the interstate
16 movement.

17 DR. BONIFACIO: Okay, to summarize then, the
18 bookend-like system, like Sunny's saying, is
19 that it starts when an animal is officially
20 identified. And it ends typically when that
21 animal goes to slaughter. And that tag's either
22 collected or not collected. That depends on the
23 plant, but that's the idea behind the bookend-
24 like. Ideally, California is moving ahead with
25 the birth origin premises as the starting point

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1
2 for that bookend, with dairy cattle, just dairy
3 cattle just so everybody is clear on that. The
4 beef cattle are not part of that California
5 regulation. So question is, is that something
6 that's coming down the line? Should it be added
7 in the future? And those are questions that we
8 need to discuss.

9 DR. BUTLER: Let me just add one comment
10 that I don't know why nobody's ever mentioned
11 this before. But shouldn't our ultimate goal to
12 be, to have every animal tagged at birth, full
13 stop, period. That's it, every animal that we
14 know.

15 DR. BONIFACIO: That would make life a lot
16 easier, yes. For traceability, that would make
17 traceability a lot easier. But some of them
18 calves are hard to find in the hills.

19 DR. JONES: So are we okay with the current
20 framework? You know if he - - have full
21 compliance with that current framework, is that
22 enough - -. Long-term?

23 MR. MURRAY: Sorry, you're missing out on
24 the beef feeder cattle, and that's a large
25 component of the fed cattle sector. And I'm not

1 trying to create more work for us. But the
2 dairy...the dairy cattle, the calf ranches and
3 stuff, There's become a bigger basis on those
4 cattle so there's a bigger discount. Because
5 our US cow herd's been going up so just as a
6 company we're feeding less dairy, calf ranch
7 calves. So that's become the smaller part of
8 it. And the US cow herd has increased so we're
9 buying more native cattle. So our mix is
10 changing, so you're going to be missing out on a
11 big part of that, because you got some
12 exceptions there. And then the dairy calf, you
13 know we slaughter fed Holsteins. And are you
14 wanting to true up the carcass idea and the head
15 tag, with each animal? Like bag and tag? Or
16 what's the framework for that or were you just
17 looking at cattle me might retain for further
18 inspection, through FSIS? Sorry.

19 [Crosstalk]

20 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: No, no that's okay. So
21 if I understand your question right, I mean so
22 when those tags come off in the beginning of the
23 process, Like you never know what you're going
24 to find down the line in terms of inspection.
25

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1 So they have to be correlated for every carcass.
2
3 As you know you're pulling them off at the
4 beginning of the process so they have to be
5 maintained the whole way down the line. So
6 there's no way to pick and choice at that point,
7 yeah. So what you're saying is, in your opinion
8 our current - - obviously excludes feeder
9 cattle. So in your opinion the current frame
10 work is not sufficient long-term.

11 MR. MURRAY: Yes, - - long term. Because
12 you're going to see how long - - cattle. - -
13 slaughter, - - cattle.

14 DR. BONIFACIO: Okay, yeah so Troy's comment
15 is a segue into the fourth point here. So we
16 led into this with is the current frame work
17 sufficient. And we discussed some of the
18 bookend issues with regard to official
19 identification versus birth premises, as far as
20 when that animals tagged. And then the feeder
21 cattle sector is...again right now they're pretty
22 much exempt from the ADT rule. So the question
23 now that Troy brought up is 500,000 this week?

24 MR. MURRAY: Yeah.

25 DR. BONIFACIO: So you know you're looking

1 at a lot of cattle that are not officially
2 identified. Ask us in a year and they'll all be
3 tagged by the way. So but that's a good...that's
4 the next question is what do we do with feeder
5 cattle? Are we ready to incorporate feeder
6 cattle into the ADT framework? And let's open
7 it up.

9 MR. PEEK: I'm not ready to do that. Until
10 we figure out and get a handle on this adult
11 stuff, I don't even know how we can even open up
12 that area. And yes, there's risk to anything.
13 But there's a lot less risk. I mean I'm
14 obviously not a vet, but I would say there's
15 substantially less risk of any type of disease
16 on one that's under 18 months of age than there
17 is one over 18 months of age. I don't know any
18 percentages or if anybody in here does. Any of
19 the vets? I mean there's a lot less risk of any
20 disease on a feeder animal under 18 months of
21 age versus an adult animal. Over 18 months of
22 age, that's just common sense, right?

23 DR. BONIFACIO: You got one nod, no two
24 people.

25 MR. PEEK: Yeah, okay.

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1 FEMALE VOICE 2: - - tracing a TB animal
2 that was exposed at birth.

3 MR. PEEK: Okay. But as a whole...

4 FEMALE VOICE 2: - - connected - -.

5 MR. PEEK: Yeah, yeah, yeah. On a whole
6 there's less likelihood. Anyways I think you're
7 opening up, you better do some amazingly great
8 outreach to producers before you even consider
9 this situation. I think you'll have a lot of
10 blow back. People can live, and I can even live
11 with the 18 months' age and over, 'cause
12 primarily of what I'm dealing with are female
13 breeding stock that, at least as the current
14 regulation says, they should at least have a
15 Bangs tag in them. I mean that's a doable
16 situation. But I think you're opening up, you
17 better make sure we have a handle on, before you
18 go to this, you better make sure you got a
19 handle on what you got right now, before trying
20 to chew on that one.

21 DR. BONIFACIO: That's a common theme from
22 other meetings, prior to this one, so I
23 appreciate that.

24 MALE VOICE 4: Yeah Brad, I know what you're

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1 saying about some of the issues with the current
2 ID and requirements on adult cattle. I think in
3 my opinion what's creating problems are all of
4 our damn exceptions. You know if we just tagged
5 all cattle feeders, adults, if we're just
6 talking about cattle as a species, if all those
7 cattle were officially identified, and we didn't
8 have all the exceptions, life would be pretty
9 easy. And we'd be able to answer some of the
10 questions, that sometimes it appears that maybe
11 we're not the experts on, because the exceptions
12 just drive us all nuts.

14 MR. PEEK: I see your point - -.

15 MALE VOICE 4: I agree with you Brad a 100%.
16 But the one segment if we get an animal disease
17 and we can't trace it, will be the feeder
18 cattle, because there are export markets and
19 they'll shut them down fast. The cows and
20 stuff, they're over 30, they're pretty well
21 domestic consumption over 30 months, but the fed
22 cattle sector will get hit the hardest if we
23 can't trace it back in a reasonable amount of
24 time with our export partners. And I understand
25 what you're saying completely. We need to get a

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1 lot of things figured out. But biggest risk I
2 see is to the fed sector. If we do have...well
3 foot-and-mouths a different one or if we get
4 BSE. But we got to be able to get back to where
5 it came from and hopefully the bookends
6 approach. And if we can't do that, we'll
7 look...well Brazil had other issues. But we don't
8 want to lose any of our export markets because
9 they're a significant of our revenue coming in
10 nowadays and really help the market. So that's
11 why I was focusing on the fed sector. Not
12 necessarily because it would be easy or it's
13 not. There's nothing easy about any of this.

15 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: I think we're hearing
16 some of the same comments we've heard in
17 previous discussions. But I want to make sure
18 we interpret what you're saying correctly. Take
19 the feeder cattle off the table, for the
20 immediate future. But certainly keep them in
21 the equation for the long term. I think we
22 realize that we're not ready to go to the feeder
23 cattle ID yet, but I interpret some of your
24 comments that as we make progress with our
25 current framework, we need to consider their

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1 inclusion at some point in time. Is that
2 correct?

3 [Crosstalk]

4 MALE VOICE 6: Everything just sounds really
5 good talking about it.

6 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Yeah.

7 MALE VOICE 6: Implementation and outreach
8 is a whole different deal. There you will get a
9 bigger revolt when you expand this into the
10 feeder section.

11 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Right, understand.

12 MALE VOICE 6: The people with five heads,
13 or the people with 2,000 head. You will get a
14 bigger adversarial against your program ideas.
15 So you better make sure you got this first one
16 right. And get that outreach going before you
17 go to the second.

18 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: And I think the reason-

19 MALE VOICE 6: [Interposing] And if you get
20 it right six months, then I guess that's great.
21 If it takes you two years, it takes you two
22 years.

23 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: I think part of the
24 reason I'm curious for your opinion is to make
25

1
2 sure that we send the right outreach material
3 down the road, SO the - - ahead of time we can
4 inform people that there might be a time where
5 feeder cattle are brought in, I think they start
6 thinking about ways that it can work. Yeah, so
7 I think if we send the single out, they're never
8 going to be included, will cause a more
9 difficult challenge communication-wise down the
10 road, so okay.

11 DR. JONES: It kind of goes back to the
12 whole form follows function comment. If as a
13 whole we agree that the reason to do individual
14 animal ID is chronic disease, infectious, highly
15 infectious disease and marketing, feeders have
16 to be included at some point, or we're never
17 going to achieve those goals. I think we all
18 understand that. It's just that the how, the
19 when, the timing, the approach.

20 DR. BONIFACIO: Okay, anyone else? So good
21 points, I think captured what some of the
22 previous meetings from what I've read from the
23 previous meetings. I know you've been on the
24 circuit; so you heard it. So it's feeder cattle
25 have to come into play at some time, to address

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1 what Dr. Jones is saying, to cover that export
2 market, at least. At minimum, so stay tuned.
3
4 And I know speaking for the folks in the field,
5 we got a lot of outreach work ahead of us. And
6 we are already strategizing on how to reach
7 those folks. And you know we're going to be
8 visiting with the yards. And working with you
9 to identify some of those folks that we need to
10 reach out to. So hopefully that partnership
11 will work as we go forward. And start getting
12 the information to those people that need it, in
13 whatever language they need to...they need it in.
14 So with that, I think I'd like to turn it back
15 over to Sunny or Neil or anybody else who wants
16 to take the mic from me, 'cause I think I'm done
17 with it. Thank you everyone.

18 MS. GRIMES: Okay, it is 2:10. Typically in
19 these meetings then, we've all come back as a
20 large group. Kind of shared, I think this has
21 accomplished the same thing in a little
22 different format, but that's good. So I guess
23 really, are there some takeaways, key takeaways
24 that you all would like to share that you're
25 going to take back to headquarters? And then

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1 we'll close, wrap up, and get you guys in your
2 vehicles by 2:30.

3
4 MR. HAMMERSCHMIDT: Sunny, be prepared to
5 comment on some things I overlooked. But I
6 think we continue to hear that from a
7 traceability stand point, If we can keep the
8 current framework, start the framework or
9 maintain with the same population of cattle.
10 But move the, or push back the ID closer to the
11 birth premises, if not the birth premises.
12 Whether they are at a tagging site or before
13 they first are comingled, change of ownership,
14 whatever that entails. We certainly continue to
15 hear the need for more uniform enforcement, not
16 just at the markets themselves. Exceptions,
17 either delete them entirely or down size them.
18 The fewer, the better. I think it's creating a
19 lot of confusion in the marketplace. I think
20 that in itself would aid ourselves in
21 enforcement. It might possibly help self-police
22 if you will the current requirements we have on
23 covered cattle for official identification. And
24 certainly I think we're understanding that we
25 have significant gaps or things that we can fix

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1
2 in the current framework before we bring feeder
3 cattle into the equation. I think those are
4 some of the highlights, Sunny. Others from your
5 perspective?

6 DR. GEISER-NOVOTNY: No, I think you covered
7 them all. And one of the things we mentioned I
8 think in the beginning too, is that obviously we
9 didn't have a huge crowd here today. But as you
10 guys go home and you think of additional
11 comments or items that you'd like to make
12 comment on, there's ample ways to do that and
13 also taking it back to your counterparts who
14 might not have been able to come here today.
15 But that'd be the only thing I'd add.

16 MS. GRIMES: Okay, so I just want to make
17 sure before we have Aaron close, is there
18 anything that you, any last thoughts from CDFA
19 or from state of California?

20 DR. JONES: No just to follow up, we are
21 grateful for USDA you know to listen and try and
22 make the program work better. You guys have
23 been a good partners for a long time. So don't
24 give up. And I think that we've been requested
25 all to have a little backbone and move it

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1 forward.

2
3 MR. GRIMES: Okay, so Dr. Scott would you
4 like to give some?

5 DR. SCOTT: Yeah, I think we're...everybody's
6 about tired and appreciate you all. I've heard
7 a lot of good conversations today and some
8 really good points, and I think Neil reiterated
9 those. One other thing that I heard,
10 particularly from you fellows behind me, I
11 couldn't always tell who was talking, but I
12 could hear you over my back, is about the small
13 producers and I heard that also. I'm not sure
14 as far as if a regulation comes to pass or
15 something goes forward with that. The key take
16 home there I think is whatever that regulation
17 does is it facilitates ways that those folks can
18 operate and get tags in without that burden
19 being on the markets. So I'd add that onto the
20 list of what I heard from you all too.
21 Appreciate you Dr. Jones and your crew for being
22 here, so thanks a bunch. I really think you all
23 probably, if we do have something really bad to
24 happen, I think you folks in California are
25 probably going to be at the head of the curve

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1
2 for a disease. If we're trying to do a
3 regionalization with other countries or
4 something like that, I do think you'll be ahead
5 of other folks in the country. So I don't have
6 anything else to close except thank you all for
7 coming, and I appreciate the input. Comments
8 are, I think there's a lot of different ways
9 that you can make comments. And I would
10 encourage you all to do those. As I keep
11 forgetting the, regs.gov, is that the place,
12 Neil? Basey's got it.

13 FEMALE VOICE 2: Yes, it's back there - -.

14 DR. SCOTT: Yeah, so please provide the
15 comments, and I've heard a lot of good things
16 and took notes listening. I would hope that
17 whatever critical points that you brought up
18 today, that you would send them in writing as
19 well too. I think that's important; we are here
20 to listen and hear what you have to say. And
21 that's the case for everyone. Yes, ma'am? She
22 asked if the conference was taped and yes, it
23 was. At least assuming the technology worked
24 okay, it was...I'm not sure whether the transcript
25 is available for the whole day or not. What

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1 will be available for sure is that, what we're
2 hearing at each one of these different meetings
3 is being compiled. And there's a working group
4 of state and federal officials that are working
5 to compile all of the things that we have heard.
6 Not specifically that you said X, Y, and Z, but
7 comprehensively all of the comments that we're
8 hearing. And then those will be in a published,
9 available for everyone to see, and presented
10 also at a forum that NIAA is putting on this
11 fall. It will be September 26th and 27th, and
12 Denver is the location for it. So that
13 information will be available. I don't know;
14 it'll been awful lot of hours of audio
15 transcript to publish. So I'm not sure that
16 that's going to be available. But the summary
17 of the discussions will be. Any other questions
18 from anybody, anything else that you all have to
19 comment on? Yes, sir?

21 MALE VOICE 6: I just want to make sure --
22 that thing that-- combination tag -- program --
23 -- talked a little bit over there, got to make it
24 as easy as possible.

25 DR. SCOTT: I couldn't agree with you more

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1
2 there. Well I think that...I think also as far as
3 making it more easy, the other take home point
4 is I think in all of these meetings, I have
5 heard issues. There's problems; there's gaps in
6 our traceability. I think where our industry
7 is, I know our industry is vulnerable to a
8 number of diseases. I think the solutions to
9 those are things that probably all of us
10 together can solve. None of us alone can do.
11 So think about that a little bit. And if we
12 have the industry and the markets and our state
13 partners and our federal people, if everybody's
14 pulling in the same direction for this industry,
15 then we can solve those problems. And hopefully
16 do it in a fairly non-painful way. So that's
17 all I have to say and thank you all, and travel
18 safe home.

19 [Applause]

20 [END AFTERNOON SESSION]

21
22
23
24
25

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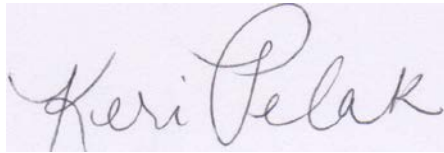
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