

# Animal Disease Traceability Framework

## Overview and Current Thinking

August 13, 2010

- **The proposed rule to support the new animal disease traceability framework would:**
  - Pertain only to animals that move interstate
  - Be performance and outcome based using traceability performance measures (the preliminary performance standards prepared by the Regulation Working Group on page 2)
  - Require animals moved interstate to be officially identified (individually or by group/lot) and accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), unless otherwise exempt
    - Official identification will be defined in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) by species providing multiple options while establishing national uniformity
    - Regulations will exempt, or phase in, certain ages and classes of livestock and certain movements
    - States and Tribes may move animals between their geographic areas using other identification options if they agree to do so
      - For example, two brand inspection States may elect to use official brands
  - Provide for an evaluation process to measure State and Tribal tracing capability against the traceability performance standards
  - Provide traceability status designations to reflect State and Tribal tracing performance in comparison to the traceability performance standards (see page 5)
  - Provide options where additional requirements may be imposed for animals moving interstate from States and Tribes that do not achieve the traceability performance standards (see page 5, Traceability Status III)
  
- **The overall success of animal disease traceability would be evaluated and documented through:**
  - Traceability performance standards as defined through the CFR will:
    - Evaluate State and Tribal tracing capability to the traceability performance standards
    - Provide incentives or advantages for achieving the traceability performance standards
  - Compliance factors with regulations and policies, including:
    - Proper administration of official identification devices (e.g., completeness of official identification tag distribution records )
    - Official identification of livestock required to be officially identified per interstate movement regulation
    - Official identification collected at slaughter
    - ICVIs for shipments requiring ICVIs and the completeness of information on the certificates

- State and Tribe traceability cooperative agreement workplans
  - Each cooperator will have an APHIS-approved animal disease traceability plan that thoroughly describes the cooperator’s objectives, including the traceability unit<sup>1</sup>.
  - Federal funding will be provided through annual traceability cooperative agreements that detail implementation strategies supporting the cooperator’s traceability plan.
  - Funding levels will be proportionate with the projected costs of the activities defined in the cooperative agreement and align with achieving and maintaining the State or Tribe’s defined traceability unit.
  
- **Preliminary Timeline for Rulemaking and Implementation**
  - Proposed rule published approximately April 2011
  - Final rule published approximately 12 to 15 months after publication of proposed rule

### Interstate Traceability Performance Standards

The following table lists performance standards being considered to align with the objectives of an “outcome-based” regulation.

Action	Who Performs	Description	Standard
1. Notify the State/Tribe in which reference animals were officially identified	State/Tribe that received the animal	For animals that are required to be officially identified, how long will it take the receiving State/Tribe to notify the State/Tribe in which the animals were officially identified?	95% notification within 1 business day
2. Identify traceability unit in which reference animals were identified	State/Tribe where the animal was officially identified	For animals that are required to be officially identified, how long will it take the State/Tribe in which the animals were officially identified to specify the traceability unit within which the animals were officially identified?	Initial: 75% within 5 business days  Future: 95% within 2 business days
3. Notify the State/Tribe from which the reference animals were shipped	State/Tribe that received the animal	For animals that are required to be officially identified, how long will it take the receiving State/Tribe to notify the State/Tribe in which the interstate animal movement was initiated?	Initial: 95% within 7 business days  Future: 95% within 3 business days
4. Identify the traceability unit from which the reference animals were shipped	State/Tribe that shipped the animal (may be the same State/Tribe in #2)	For animals that are required to be officially identified, how long will it take the State/Tribe from which the interstate animal movement was initiated to specify the traceability unit from which the shipment was initiated?	Initial: 75% within 5 business days  Future: 95% within 2 business days

<sup>1</sup> The geographical unit to which an animal is required to be identified, as selected by a State or Tribe. The unit may be a State or Tribe, a county, a premises, a site within a premises, or some other unit as determined by the State or Tribe. The unit selected by a State or Tribe could be the smallest unit that the Administrator would initially quarantine in the event of a disease outbreak.

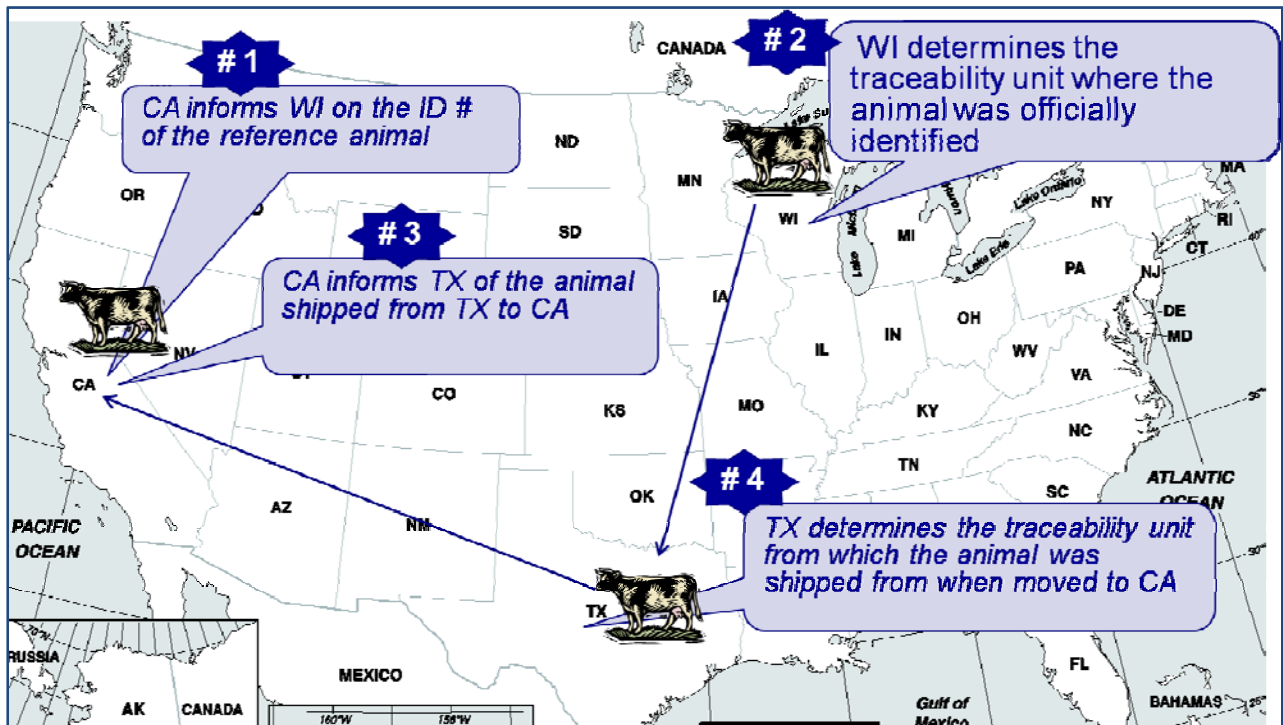
## How would these traceability performance activities be conducted?

For illustrative purposes, let's consider the interstate movement scenario where a dairy cow was shipped from Wisconsin to Texas. The animal had been identified through the Dairy Herd Improvement Association with an 840 tag. Therefore, that identification was used to meet the official identification requirement for interstate movement. The cow was then sold and moved from Texas to California.

The diagram below illustrates the actions these States would take to fulfill the traceability performance standards. In this exercise, California identifies the animal as a reference animal for performance standard measurement purposes.

The following actions reflect how the performance standards align with traceback activity (presented in the numeric order of the performance standards, not necessarily the order the actual tracing events may be conducted).

- Performance Standard #1: California, using the Animal Identification Management System, determines the 840 tag was distributed to Wisconsin and informs Wisconsin of the official identification number of the reference animal.
- Performance Standard #2: Wisconsin determines the traceability unit where the reference animal was officially identified. Again, the Animal Identification Management System should be a good source of that information.
- Performance Standard #3: California informs Texas of the official identification number of the animal shipped from Texas to California.
- Performance Standard #4: Texas determines the traceability unit that the reference animal moved from when shipped to California.



## Implementation of Traceability Requirements - Cattle

The table below summarizes the potential official identification and ICVI requirements for cattle.

**Step I:** Provides initial exemption to delay the inclusion of feeder cattle and young stock under 18 months of age. Additionally, Step I includes an educational period for several months following publication of the final rule in which producers are informed of regulatory requirements.

**Step II:** All ages and classes of cattle with remaining exemptions focused on types of interstate movements.

Official Identification		Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
Step I	Step II	
<p><b>Unless exempt as provided below, official identification required for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All dairy cattle</li> <li>• Other sexually intact cattle more than 18 months of age</li> <li>• Cattle used for rodeo and recreational events</li> <li>• Cattle moved to shows or exhibitions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unless exempt as provided below, official identification required for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cattle</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unless exempt as provided below, ICVIs required for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cattle</li> </ul>
Exemptions to the Official Identification Requirements		Exemptions to the ICVI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steers or spayed heifer (except if involved in rodeo, recreation, shows, or exhibitions)</li> <li>• Cattle moved directly to slaughter (including through one approved livestock facility; for example, auction/market) with a USDA-approved backtag</li> <li>• Cattle moved to a custom slaughter facility in accordance with State or Federal regulations for preparation of meat for personal consumption</li> <li>• Cattle moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement.</li> <li>• Cattle may be moved interstate between any two States/Tribes with other identification methods (other than what is defined as official) as agreed on by animal health officials in those two States/Tribes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle moved to a custom slaughter facility in accordance with State or Federal regulations for preparation of meat for personal consumption</li> <li>• Cattle moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement</li> <li>• Cattle may be moved interstate between any two States/Tribes with other identification methods (other than what is defined as official), as agreed on by animal health officials in those two States/Tribes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle moved direct to slaughter (including through one approved market) and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An owner-shipper statement is required, but individual identification does not need to be recorded for cattle moved from a federally approved livestock facility directly to slaughter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Cattle moved directly to an approved livestock facility with an owner-shipper statement that do not move interstate from the facility unless accompanied by an ICVI</li> <li>• Cattle moved from the farm of origin for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the farm of origin without change in ownership</li> <li>• Cattle moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement.</li> <li>• Additionally, cattle may be moved between any two States/Tribes with documentation other than an ICVI, as agreed on by animal health officials in those two States/Tribes.</li> </ul>
Other Circumstances when Official Identification Requirements are Waived or Delayed		Recording Official Identification on ICVIs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle may be moved interstate without official identification during transit if destined to an approved tagging site (may be a market/auction barn) and identified before commingling with cattle from other premises.</li> <li>• Cattle moved directly from one State through another State and back to the original State without official identification.</li> </ul>		<p>The recording of official identification numbers would be required for all cattle on the ICVI that require official individual identification other than “feeder” cattle.</p>

## Traceability Status Designations

APHIS, through collaboration with States and Tribes, will establish and publish a process for evaluating the capability of States and Tribes in comparison to the traceability performance standards. Traceability status will reflect States' and Tribes' ability to meet the traceability performance standards. A separate status will be assigned for each species. The following categories explain the statuses being considered; the label for each status still needs to be determined:

- **Traceability Status I.** The State and Tribe meet all traceability performance standards for the species.
- **Traceability Status II.** The State or Tribe does not meet all traceability performance standards for the species, but performance is within the defined acceptable range (details to be provided in performance standards document). No additional traceability requirements are imposed for interstate movement of that species from the State or Tribe. The State or Tribe implements corrective actions and will be re-evaluated within 1 year. APHIS will re-evaluate the State or Tribe upon request of State or Tribal animal health officials. If the State or Tribe does not meet all traceability performance standards for the species after 3 years, the State or Tribe will be assigned Traceability Status III for that species.
- **Traceability Status III.** The State or Tribe does not qualify for Traceability Status I or II for that species. Additional requirements will apply to interstate movements of that species from the State or Tribe to improve traceability of that species. The Administrator will establish additional interstate movement requirements in each case, taking into consideration the results of the traceability status evaluation. The additional requirements could include requirements to apply or record official identification that would otherwise not be required under the regulation or supplemental documentation, such as permits. Additional interstate movement requirements applicable to a particular species from a State or Tribe classified as Traceability Status III for that species will be made public. APHIS will re-evaluate the State or Tribe at the request of State or Tribal animal health officials.

**Any Tribe that wishes to** be evaluated and assigned a traceability status separate from the State(s) in which its lands are located may request separate consideration at any time. A State's evaluation and status will include Tribal lands within the State's boundaries unless the Tribe has requested and received separate status for traceability. Federal traceability regulations will apply to the movement of livestock onto and from Tribal lands only when the movement is an interstate movement; that is, when the movement is across a State line. However, requirements for official identification and ICVIs would not apply to the movement of livestock within Tribal land that straddles a State line if the Tribe has a separate traceability status from the States in which its lands are located.

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