

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR ALASKA

A Three-Year Plan

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Animal Traceability Roadmap for Alaska is designed to improve the state's capabilities to track animal movements into or out of the state and to trace back animals that may be diagnosed with a disease to their herd and location of origin. This capability represents the most fundamental piece of livestock disease epidemiology. Its timeliness can be crucial to curtailing the spread of potentially devastating diseases. Traceability provides individual livestock producers and the industry with protection from spread of disease and prevents loss of animal productivity and financial profit. It also has potential impacts on food safety and human health. The state of Alaska has a diverse and widely scattered small scale livestock industry, so any introduction or spread of disease might prove ruinous to any individual producer. Disease spread may also have a negative impact on wildlife populations. Producers in Alaska have few large animal veterinarians to work on their herds and provide consultations on herd health. They are always concerned about the possibility of introduction of new diseases into their herds. They tend to be wary of introducing new animals, but occasionally must do so to improve genetics or increase herd size to more profitable levels. The Alaska Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) frequently works closely with producers and native tribal governments who want to import livestock, as well as providing consultative advice on animal health issues while assisting them through the interstate/international permit process.

The plan detailed in this roadmap is designed to work with the USDA's and other states/tribes developing systems. It builds on previous traceability efforts that included the establishment of premises registration, adoption of electronic interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (ICVIs), issuance of official animal ID, and producer education. This revised plan meets USDA recommended traceability guidelines, and is aligned with other states and tribes, to further improve traceability and appropriate information sharing. Another primary benefit will be increased timeliness and accuracy of data for animal movements into and out of the state. This will benefit all industry, state animal health officials and USDA. The OSV has considered various alternatives for improving animal traceability. The core fundamentals of epidemiology and its rapid employment in cases of disease require ease of identification of individuals and groups of animals, as well as the ability to trace their origin and movements. This plan maintains this primary mission as its goal.

Animal health information needs, and the systems to address them, are a key component of the traceability roadmap. The State of Alaska does not have the infrastructure or funds to develop its own systems. Our small livestock numbers do not justify standalone system development. To date, we have been able to work with systems run by USDA and private companies. These are typically compatible with other states/tribes. Our biggest need is for funding to support personnel services and travel for existing staff, thereby allowing them to utilize the systems already in existence to ensure data entry and retrieval capability, and provide outreach to producers.

The key elements of the plan are as follows:

- Traceability Performance measures to document advancement of ADT plan.
 - Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms.
 - Monitor ICVI data quality.
 - Administer official identification devices.
 - Input data into appropriate systems.
 - Improve retrieval of available traceability information. Ensure full capability to use all applicable systems from office and field sites as possible.

- Establish compatible standards for maintaining security of data and sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed.
- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding use of electronic identification and electronic records.
- Enhance IT infrastructure
- Increase use of electronic ICVIs by accredited veterinarians
- Compliance and enforcement of traceability regulations

The projected cost for 2019 is \$50,000, for 2020 is \$35,000, and for 2021 is \$35,000. These include the previously required 20% state match, as well an additional \$15,000 for enhancements to the current IT system for electronic ICVIs and import permit system. These funding levels would allow for full implementation as described. The benefits would include timely and complete data entry and accessibility, effective outreach to producers and veterinarians to increase use of electronic records, and increased ability to search within the permit and electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection eCVI system.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

- The primary constituents are the livestock producers within Alaska. The program is run by the Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, except for the tribal component, which is managed by the Island Reindeer Herders' Association and the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association. These associations operate the tribal piece independently.
- The external constituents are other U.S. states and other nations (primarily Canada) that may receive animals from Alaska or have United States-origin animals transit between the lower continuous 48 states and Alaska through Canada.
- Statewide means all animal traceability efforts that are not managed by the tribal component. Tribal-wide means those components that apply to and are managed by the reindeer herders on the Seward Peninsula (Nome area) and the Aleutian Islands.
- Traceability data is used internally to identify animal ownership by owner, animal species and premises location. Also used to verify slaughter surveillance disease (brucellosis and TB screening). Individual animal ID is used to assist producers in maintaining inventories of their animals, for purposes of interstate movement or intrastate movement for captive cervids, and movement into commercial markets where ID is required. Other intrastate movements (cervidae required to have intrastate movement permit including animal ID) and changes of ownership may also be documented. Externally, the animal ID (tied to premises) is used for movement out of state.
- The parameters that guide the animal disease traceability system include user friendliness for the producer, climate or temperature integrity, accuracy and security of data, and ease of access to data for our agency.
- The animal disease traceability outreach will be directed toward livestock producers from around the state, regional Farm Bureau directors and state Farm Bureau, livestock associations (Diversified Livestock Association., Fox River Cattlemen's Association, Alaska Dairy Goat Association, AK Natural Fiber Business Association, reindeer herder Associations., etc.) and other interested stakeholders. University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) Cooperative Extension Service and the UAF Veterinary School are partners that

will assist in outreach and education.

2.2 Where are we now?

- Animal disease traceability is animal health information systems (and the increased efficiencies they allow) combined with traditional, more labor intensive efforts that might be required to manage any possible disease outbreak or individual animal trace back.
- The measure of traceability capability currently being used is how long it takes to identify the origin and contact the owner of an animal that might be identified as being positive on a slaughterhouse surveillance test for brucellosis. The specific value is time needed, and the interpretation is based on the likelihood of exposure to other herds of animals.
- Coordination within the unit is simple to achieve in Alaska, because we have a small office with limited personnel involved. The Assistant State Veterinarian has primary responsibility for administering the program. The State Veterinarian has overall responsibility for the program. One administrative assistant helps with logistics and supplies. Our work plan and current USDA/state shared costs allow for 0.1 FTE to execute program activities.
- Due to our small livestock industry, no livestock markets, limited commercial sales and program size, there is no further state-wide coordination needed or possible. We work with the tribal associations by information sharing where appropriate, but to this point, they have not needed specific assistance. If a traceability issue arose, we would work through it and coordinate the traceback effort.
- In past years, traceability activities were coordinated with USDA APHIS Veterinary Medicals Officers stationed in Alaska. Animal imports at the land border were communicated between OSV and USDA, to ensure compliance with the state import regulations and record origin and destination locations. That close partnership provided important “corporate knowledge” on the system within the state of Alaska. As the structure of the USDA APHIS has evolved over the past couple of years with separation of NIES, Northern Border Ports and SPRS, this level of communication between the 2 agencies has become more difficult. For the benefit of both agencies, and to enhance animal traceability systems, we will look for new ways to communicate and share appropriate animal import information.
- The standards for traceability currently being used are: a) time to report to the State of official tagging/identifying of an animal in question that has moved interstate, b) time for the State of first officially tagging/identifying an animal in question that has moved interstate to provide a record of the official tag distribution, c) time to report to the State from which an animal in question has moved interstate, and d) time for the State from which an animal in question has moved interstate to provide the location and contact information from which the animal was moved interstate. These are appropriate because they allow us to assess the timeliness and overall ability to trace animal movements.
- Current technology infrastructure consists of two laptop, one desktop personal computer and capacity for back up on state owned/managed servers. This easily handles all internet access for premises or individual animal ID data, distribution of official ID to livestock producers and accredited veterinarians, as well as, the small number of excel spreadsheets for captive cervid animal RFID tags that we maintain for the Chronic Wasting Disease program. Data is secure and can easily be shared with other

- entities/agencies upon request.
- Requests for information are available M-F, 40 hours per week, if authorized personnel are present, and by cellular phone on weekends for state veterinarians. The information is mostly accessible only at our main office location.
- The State of Alaska only provides the minimum 20% matching in funding for the program. The capability of the program is greatly dependent on the Federal cooperative agreement funding.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

- Organizational strength are simplicity, good working relationships with local livestock producers, and a lot of institutional knowledge. Because livestock operations are limited in number and often isolated from other farms, the OSV office is small, minimal coordination is needed within the state. Personnel must be able to manage nearly any aspect of the traceability operation. We have adequate technology to do the job.
- Organizational weaknesses are lack of human resources to spend the time needed to enter animal ID data and premises data from ICVIs, to ensure annual verification of premises registration data, and to try and connect the paper records with electronic records. Another challenge has been the lack of IT support to develop electronic systems for managing import permits and Certificates of Veterinary Inspection. A basic animal import system and electronic certificate of veterinary inspection programs have been established. IT support is needed to update these systems to have better query capabilities and also to make the data entry for the veterinarian more user-friendly.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

- The State of Alaska maintains some electronic records at office workstations backed up on building-wide hard drive systems. These are protected at the same level as all other electronic documents that the state maintains. Hard copy files are stored in a secure building but cannot be completely protected from possible damage or loss from a catastrophic event.
- This plan maximizes the use of available resources. The limited livestock industry in the state and the program's small size does not allow for any further efficiencies.
- Networking opportunities are an opportunity for improving overall capability. The previous example of integrating the USDA VMO highlights the value of cross-functionality.
- If this plan is not implemented, the threats are lack of ability to trace animals to their point of origin, greater possibility of spread of animal disease, disruption of commerce, threat to food security and possible impacts on public health for food borne and zoonotic diseases. Economic loss and animal suffering would probably be a on a small scale due to our industry's small size; however, it would be very devastating to local markets and could be to our state overall.
- If this plan is not implemented, there are no other government agencies or groups that might be tasked with doing so. Industry cannot dedicate people to do it.
- Before we began formal animal traceability efforts we had very limited data available to us on livestock producers (premises, animal species on the farm). The only such data was collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and was confidential, with only broad compiled statistics being published. With the data base we have built, we have been able to contact select groups of producers to inform them of species specific disease threats or morbidity/mortality events.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

- Human resources
 - Assistant State Veterinarian: Currently a 0.1 FTE. Has primary responsibility for executing program. Could flex to devote more time if more funding were available for personnel services.
 - State Veterinarian: Devotes approximately 0.05 FTE of time to program. Has overall authority and responsibility for program.
 - Administrative assistant: Devotes very small percentage of time to program for admin support. At recent funding levels, typically a 0.05 FTE or less.
 - IT support services very small percent of time to program, used on as needed basis for support of database and electronic permit and electronic ICVI system. Updates on the permit and electronic ICVI programs are required in 2019 in order to effectively meet program goals.
- Adequate office and storage space exists at the main office for the Environmental Health Laboratory.
- Connectivity resources should be adequate, both in office and in the field. Connectivity capability in the field needs to be tested.
- Access to USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources is adequate.
- Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information is periodically tested through traceability exercises, usually in coordination with USDA. Computerized data management capability is adequate, including present storage size, speed, security, etc. Our small size makes these easy to manage.
- Automated data capture capability exists through Global Vet Link, new Planet Technologies, AgView, and other companies for ICVIs.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The primary vision for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is conserving, improving and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic and social well-being of Alaskans.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the office of the State Veterinarian is the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases in all animals in the state including livestock and pets. This includes oversight of the dairy industry in the production of milk, cheeses, and frozen desserts and ensuring that the commercial supply of reindeer meat is safe, wholesome and correctly labeled and packaged. These activities involve safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock, reindeer and poultry and preventing the transmission of animal diseases to man. The prevention and control of domestic animal diseases are achieved through four major areas of activity: Import/Export, Disease Surveillance and Control, Dairy Program, and Reindeer Slaughter.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

To develop and implement a state-wide infrastructure that advances animal disease traceability by increasing collection of premises and animal data, improving data accuracy, maximizing ease of use for producers, and ensuring compatibility with other state, tribal, and USDA standards.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

- 2019:
 - Enhance current electronic import and electronic CVI system. More people are starting to move livestock in and out of the state, particularly from Canada, so they may have more specific needs and recommendations for improvement of the system. We have solicited feedback from private veterinarians as to the utility of our permit and eCVI systems. Updates need to be added to allow for direct uploads of the ICVIs.
 - Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms. Veterinarians are the target audience for this effort. This is an ongoing goal.
 - Build partnerships with other organizations and producer groups to assist in outreach efforts.
 - Monitor ICVI data quality and coordinate with USDA-VMO on validating international import paperwork for matching issuance of state import permits. This is also an ongoing goal. As described earlier, better methods of communication between USDA and OSV is necessary to improve animal disease traceability goals.
 - Refine new electronic import permit system to improve data management capabilities and develop electronic ICVI system. The basic framework for on-line permit applications and eCVIs is in place. Revisions and updates are needed to make the systems more user friendly, to increase use by veterinarians.
 - Input data into appropriate systems. This particularly includes animal ID data. The Core One system for traceability data has been utilized over the past 3 years without problems.
 - Propose confidentiality standards to protect proprietary farm information, location, and animal import information. This confidentiality is expected to increase farmer participation in traceability activities and enhance compliance.
- 2020:
 - Improve retrieval of available traceability information. Ensure full capability to use all applicable systems from office and field sites as possible.
 - Re-evaluate and update tag distribution record system. Previously issued tags that haven't been used need to be recalled.
 - Continue to establish more efficient mechanisms for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed.
 - Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms.
 - Integrate surveillance and traceability data. Will depend on overarching system development. The OSV must rely on national level efforts to integrate these and expects to fully support and utilize such systems. Our industry is too small to drive an agency budget for such system development.
 - Utilize One Health approach to demonstrate links between animal traceability, food

safety, public health, and animal health. Understanding and incorporating these concepts into a livestock operation are the basis of a successful commercial business plan.

- Utilize other disease certification programs, like chronic wasting disease, to educate producers and meet traceability goals.
- Demonstrate to producers, markets, and consumers the value of the system; and distribute official ID to producers and accredited veterinarians.
- 2021:
 - Reassess IT infrastructure. Continue to enhance IT infrastructure, as new needs are identified.
 - Link animal ID and traceability to quality herd health management.
 - Assess success of program at that time, and adapt as necessary to improve the existing systems for traceability in light of new technologies, new management practices, or new disease priorities as determined by state or federal agencies or farming industry.

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures

- The performance measures below fulfill four primary objectives: These are:
 - Maintain and continue to grow current animal disease traceability infrastructure.
 - Establish objective assessment of animal disease traceability.
 - Optimize the acquisition and search ability of potential animal disease traceability data from interstate certificates of veterinary inspection, and, if applicable, data from livestock brucellosis testing, and livestock tuberculosis testing.
 - Implement an outreach plan for accredited veterinarians and livestock commercial markets describing the applicant's plan for advancing animal disease traceability, emphasizing interstate certificates of veterinary inspection record keeping and timely distribution requirements by accredited veterinarians.
- During 2015-2018, performance was measured by the following methods:
 - Document the state's current animal disease traceability capability for cattle. Run tabletop exercises with other states to test traceability capability for imports and exports. Due to the limited movement of cattle to Alaska other species may be used for trace exercises.
 - Measure the advancements in animal disease traceability capability made with this funding. Repeat tabletop exercises to test improvement in traceability capability.
 - Update electronic information systems and web services.
 - Measure compliance rate for obtaining import permits and proper issuance of ICVIs.
 - Develop an outreach plan for producers, livestock associations, 4-H groups, veterinarians and markets. Provide outreach education at state fairs and other stakeholder meetings.
 - Facilitate an animal disease traceability working group. Due to the large geographic area, and small numbers of producers in the various livestock producer groups, it was difficult to have consistent participation in a working group. In the future, partnerships with these organizations will continue, with a more streamlined dissemination of information to each group. On-line surveys or other needs- assessments will be reviewed to determine if education and outreach have been effective.
 - Convene meetings and provide direction for participants.
 - Enhance if possible electronic accessibility to standardized animal disease traceability data.
 - Document legal limitations in the state to animal disease traceability.

- The performance measurement baselines currently are as follows:
 - Traceability exercises were completed in coordination with USDA for cattle, swine, goats, and reindeer.
 - The OSV webpage has been updated to reflect the new animal disease traceability program. Links to the USDA web site have been added so that people can see the outcomes from national meetings and plans for the future.
 - The OSV webpage contains more animal import factsheets, updated import permit and AK eCVI portals for on line access and tutorial for how to complete animal import permit application and eCVIs.
 - The state veterinarians provide outreach education on traceability to producer groups, at all state fairs, 4-H groups, Cooperative Extension meetings, the state Farm Bureau meeting, and the state veterinary association throughout the year each year.
 - The animal traceability group has not held separate meetings during the past couple of years; however, the previous participants have been briefed on ongoing activities and plans for the future during statewide or borough level Farm Bureau meetings are being scheduled. The OSV disseminates information throughout the year when appropriate.
 - Traceability information is also provided through a quarterly OSV newsletter, or through the new OSV listserv.
 - The OSV was pursuing a legislation to allow animal health data (including premises registrations and animal ID) to be confidential and not public information. The confidentiality bill was proposed during the 2018 legislative session. Despite wide-spread support, it was not passed. The bill has a sponsor in 2019, and will be reviewed again.
- Where possible and appropriate, performance measures utilize time components. As outlined above, it may be time required to execute a short term task, a quarterly date longer term goal for an implementation effort, or a defined periodic repeated activity.

4.4 Data requirements

- Standards to be used for location identification are either street address or postal route information. Some premises may be registered in the national database, which includes GIS coordinates.
- Official animal identification for movement out of the state may include state issued metal (brite tags, AIN, 840) or bangle ear tags, state issued RFID ear tags, or AIN, 840 tags that producers apply and are recorded and reported on the ICVI. The OSV is informing livestock owners that brite tags will soon be phased out as acceptable forms of official ID. Cervid producers on the voluntary CWD Herd Certification Program may use RFID tags specifically issued by USDA for that purpose. Alaska has no sale barns or other such livestock markets, so official ID is needed for that applied or recorded at slaughter in USDA inspected facilities and for change of ownership. ID may be required at state fairs and other shows in the future.
- Alaska will issue forms of official animal ID, such as, metal ear tags (until they are no longer accepted as official ID), RFID tags or 840 tags to accredited veterinarians working with livestock on routine farm calls or applying the tags at the time of performing regulatory animal disease work. In some cases, tags will be allocated directly to the producer, and consequently will be associated with the premises. These allocations will be recorded on excel spreadsheets kept at the OSV and in hard copy folders filed by producer. Very small volume is expected for use, perhaps a few hundred per year at most. They are distributed directly from our office by mail or direct pick up. Taggers are distributed with tags. VS Memo 578.12 is to be used for reference guidelines.

- Tag distribution record keeping will be done by excel spreadsheet for CWD RFID tags and state issued metal and bangle ear tags. Other 840 series RFID tags will be entered into the National Animal Identification Management System (NAIMS) system.
- Alaska does not have commuter herds.
- Alaska allows electronic CVI forms for interstate movement.
- Data will be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA as needed, subject to legal review noted above.
- Group/lot official numbers will be retrievable by the automated NAIMS. For group/lot numbers entered only into state spreadsheets, they will need to be searchable by number or producer.

4.5 Information technology plan

We utilize the new Core One data base system for premises registration and the NAIMS for animal ID. We allow use of contractors for electronic ICVIs (Global VetLink, New Planet Technologies). No additional hardware needs are known at this time. We have planned for an update to IT systems in 2019. Other data is very small in volume and readily accessible on hard copy or personal computers.

4.6 Resource requirements

- We have the expertise needed for our small volume needs, although the amount of time we can devote to the program is limited, and limits data entry and development of familiarity with the data base systems. **Lack of funding for personnel time continues to be the largest challenge we face at this time.**
- Consultants will not be needed at this time. We will access personnel from Core One/Trace First on appropriate issues.
- With only three individuals involved, at a 0.12 FTE level, continuity of operations plans have not been developed or tested.
- Automated data capture resources exist in the form of Global VetLink and New Planet Technologies for eICVIs, as well as the new state eICVI system for exports. We will explore other automated data capture opportunities as they become available.
- No additional or new space will be required.

4.7 Organizational needs

- There is no need for any organizational change to continue to develop our animal traceability capabilities; however, with so few people involved and so little time allotted for this activity in the first place, it is not practical to request another full-time person. If funding were available, we have the option of hiring short-term or long-term non-permanent people for such special functions or projects. We might be able to share such a person with other concurrent projects within our division.
- We have no other resources available to leverage at this time.

4.7.1 Executive support

- Executive management is generally supportive, and typically encourages use of non-permanent employees for such purposes.
- Accountability is provided by the work plan reports that are filed with the USDA office and reviewed by our Division.
- The OSV is the primary official for this program. The director above us may review performance measures reported quarterly for the work plan

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- The animal disease traceability advisory group includes individual livestock producers, Cooperative Extension livestock specialist, representatives from Farm Bureau chapters, and 4-H groups, as well as any citizen who wishes to participate. The number of participants in meetings is usually around 10-12. They meet annually and sometimes more often as needed.
- Emergency preparedness resources would include the state Emergency Operations center and local centers as well. Our office trains with and holds regular meetings with the Dept. of Homeland Security and Red Cross to discuss possible animal related emergencies and animal sheltering needs.
- Alaska is ensuring compliance with latest CFR and USAHA rules on animal identification and movement to assure compatibility with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA.
- Responsibilities for implementing the plan are assigned to the Assistant State Veterinarian.
- No disputes have arisen that would need any arbitration.
- Feedback is obtained from the advisory board below and the Division Director above the administrative authority. There are not many layers of government within our agency.
- Administrators have never been transitioned before. In the event of the Assistant State Veterinarian leaving, the State Veterinarian would take over administration until the new person could be trained.

4.7.3 Policy

- The state requires official ID for cattle, goats, sheep, swine, and cervids imported into Alaska. Lack of funding limits the availability of personnel time to do some of the data entry and systems management. The OSV has implemented regulation changes mandating ID for sheep and goats as needed to maintain scrapie “compliant state” status.

4.7.4 Staffing

- We have no support staff assigned to this program full time. Staff is justified based on a combination of program needs and available state and federal combined funding.
- No specific qualifications are needed other than the normal job qualifications for the state veterinary officers (which includes being licensed and accredited) and the administrative assistant. If a part-time or non-permanent person were utilized, we could tailor the job qualifications to the duties.
- More personnel are not necessarily needed, but a 0.3 FTE instead of a 0.1 FTE is needed to implement the plan.
- Given the workload envisioned and the current small size of our organization, the use of a non-permanent person is more feasible and practical than trying to leverage other human resources.
- Professional credentials and certification are not an issue.
- Specific job descriptions for the roles are not provided because the program duties are such a small percentage of the overall duties for the jobs, and because they overlap with other more general job descriptions.
- Animal disease traceability information is a distinct function within the OSV.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- We are funded for animal disease traceability 80% by federal funds and greater than the 20% by the required matching state funds.
- For 2018 we received \$30,000 from USDA to operate the plan. A percentage of that is spent on travel. Because our state is large and transportation costs are high, we combine several different program activities during nearly all travel. This helps to maximize the impact of travel funds. The majority of cooperative agreements funds will be spent on personnel services (including benefits), with a small amount being used to partially pay for travel to various meetings, where traceability will be one component of the trip. To fully implement this plan, we need \$40,000 each year to provide for more personnel time for data entry and systems management.
- Cost sharing is achieved by the state matching over the required 20%.
- We cannot necessarily insulate against budget cuts and shortfalls, but have so far successfully been able to justify and execute the 20% matching from state general funds. We do not anticipate this being a problem in the next 3 years.
- No other funding sources are available for leveraging to support this plan.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

- Accredited veterinarians will be informed of the new framework and the specific three-year plan for implementation at annual state veterinary association meetings and through our quarterly newsletters.
- We already inform veterinarians of data quality problems relative to animal health information systems we encounter through the newsletters, meetings, and direct correspondence. Other continuing education may be provided as needs become evident.
- Veterinarians are sent letters of notification whenever they fail to submit official forms in a timely manner and they are reminded of requirements at meetings and through newsletters.
- Our office enhances the use of electronic ICVIs by offering an electronic form on the state webpage and by subscribing to Global VetLink, New Planet Technologies, and AgView. Many vets from other states and Alaska use these systems.
- The accredited veterinarian may provide state- issued, low-cost, official identification tags/devices to producers. This occurs 6-8 times a year at most. Veterinarians keep track of any allocations and provide records of tag usage. Veterinarian will be responsible for keeping records and capable of finding the location that a tag was applied.

4.7.6.2 Livestock markets

- Alaska has no livestock markets.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

- Industry is continually being informed of the implementation plan through the advisory board meetings and at producer meetings throughout the year.
- The advisory committee includes Farm Bureau chapter directors and

interested producers. Information is disseminated through the Farm Bureau newsletter, AK Division of Agriculture newsletter and Cooperative Extension outreach.

- The OSV provides outreach education at state fairs and 4-H shows around the state every year.
- The Alaska livestock industry includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, captive elk and reindeer, musk ox, bison, sheep, goats, yak, and widespread small poultry operations for eggs and meat.
- Every effort is made to include under-represented and under-served communities being included in the outreach plan by using e-mailings and our web site.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

- The number of animals and the number of shipments that move interstate will be monitored by hard copy of interstate and international CVIs, as well as, state issued, Global VetLink and New Planet Technologies electronic ICVIs.
- Due to the small number of livestock movements, the data can be verified for accuracy by periodic hand checking.
- The following data will be determined each year:
 - Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents created within the State/Tribe/Territory on a year-to-date basis for move-out animals (exports).
 - Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents received for move-in animals (imports).
 - Number of animals by species and class for move-in events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified.
 - Number of animals by species and class for move-out events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified.
 - Volume of distribution for each official numbering system/device issued by the State and/or AVIC office, including back tags by market or processing (slaughter) facility.

V TRACEABILITY INFORMATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Specific steps that are needed to advance from where the initiative currently resides are as follows. The prioritization by year is done in the following section 5.2:
 - Increase electronic data entry of official ID tags issued and increase personnel familiarity with data entry and retrieval.
 - Measure ICVI submission timeliness for known shipments into the state.
 - Ensure appropriate data sharing capabilities with other states and tribal authorities.
 - Increase use of electronic RFID tag readers and databases by producers as they recognize benefits for their operations.
 - Provide official ID tags for producers as needed and ensure that they have the tools needed to move animals out of the state when desired.
 - Incorporate more functional data retrieval abilities into the State Lab's new information management system.

- Build data storage redundancies to lower risk of data loss.
- Share information on the future direction of the program with producers and veterinarians. Ensure their full understanding of the purpose and value of the program.
- Ensure capability to provide reports as detailed above in section 4.8. The execution of these should be a key performance measure.
- Re-assess IT needs during each year and upgrade as needed.
- A phased-in approach is appropriate over a three-year period.
- Some components are best measured through defined time lines of implementation, while others are better measured through ongoing operations or periodic results oriented exercises.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Once established, essential activities will continue through each subsequent year.

- 2019:
 - Re-define advisory committee and its agenda to outline the way forward. Previous committee meetings have been primarily informational, with the OSV providing updates on the status of the program. Members occasionally have input on specific aspects of the program. More people are starting to move livestock in and out of the state, particularly from Canada, so they may have more specific needs and recommendations for improvement of the system. We have solicited feedback from private veterinarians as to the utility of our permit and eCVI systems. Updates need to be added to allow for direct uploads of the CVIs.
 - Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms. Veterinarians are the target audience for this effort. This is an ongoing goal.
 - Monitor ICVI data quality and coordinate with USDA-VMO on validating international import paperwork is matching issuance of state import permits. This is also an on-going goal. There has been state and USDA veterinarian turnover since the plan was initiated. As discussed earlier, better methods of communication between USDA and OSV is necessary to improve animal disease traceability goals.
 - Refine new electronic import permit system to improve data management capabilities and develop electronic ICVI system. The basic framework for on-line permit applications and eCVIs is in place. Revisions and updates are needed to make the systems more user friendly, to increase use by veterinarians.
 - Input data into appropriate systems. This particularly includes animal ID data. The Core One system for traceability data has been utilized over the past 3 years without problems.
 - Propose confidentiality standards to protect proprietary farm information, location, and animal import information. This confidentiality is expected to increase farmer participation in traceability activities and enhance compliance.
- 2020:
 - Improve retrieval of available traceability information. Ensure full capability to use all applicable systems from office and field sites as possible.
 - Re-evaluate and update tag distribution record system. Previously issued tags that haven't been used need to be recalled.
 - Establish more efficient mechanisms for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed.
 - Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms.

- Integrate surveillance and traceability data. Will depend on overarching system development. The OSV must rely on national level efforts to integrate these and expects to fully support and utilize such systems. Our industry is too small to drive an agency budget for such system development.
- Utilize One Health approach to demonstrate links between animal traceability, food safety, public health, and animal health. Understanding and incorporating these concepts into a livestock operation are the basis of a successful commercial business plan.
- Utilize other disease certification programs, like chronic wasting disease, to educate producers and meet traceability goals.
- Demonstrate to producers, markets, and consumers the value of the system; and distribute official ID to producers and accredited veterinarians.
- 2021:
 - Continue to enhance IT infrastructure, as new needs are identified.
 - Link animal ID and traceability to quality herd health management.
 - Assess success of program at that time, and adapt as necessary to improve the existing systems for traceability in light of new technologies, new management practices, or new disease priorities as determined by state or federal agencies or farming industry.