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**ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY
ROAD MAP FOR
THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

**BRUCE A. SHERMAN, DVM, MPH
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**450 CAPITOL BLVD., SUITE 702, HARTFORD, CT 06103
(860) 713-2541**

SIGNATURE:



Submitted to:

**KOREN MOORE CUSTER, DVM, MPH
NEW ENGLAND AREA VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE
FIELD OPERATIONS, DISTRICT 1
USDA, APHIS, VS**

**160 WORCESTER-PROVIDENCE TURNPIKE, SUTTON, MA 01590
(508) 363-2280**

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (the DoAg), with the continued support of USDA and Connecticut livestock producers will continue to enhance an Animal Disease Traceability System that will protect public/animal health and improve our ability to respond to an animal disease outbreak, act of bioterrorism or natural disaster. In addition, enhancing and maintaining a rigorous state Animal Disease Traceability system will ensure compliance with interstate and international livestock trade requirements and enable Connecticut producers to be well-positioned to take advantage of the economic benefits associated with today's livestock related commerce.

The DoAg has made significant improvements to outdated methods of data collection, storage and data base searchability as well as expanding its sources of data since the ADT program was initially implemented. However, there is still a need for advancement in order to achieve a more comprehensive, integrated system that facilitates rapid search capabilities, communicates with other state and federal agencies and, therefore, successfully provides the ability to trace animal movements in a timely and accurate manner.

Fundamental problems

Fundamental problems that need to be addressed are as follows:

- Identifying premises where livestock and poultry are kept.
- Identifying and enumerating livestock and poultry kept in this state.
- Maintaining the information and timely updates of premise and animal information.
- Antiquated state laws and regulations that impede our ability to gather premise and animal information.
- Resistance to the use of Official Identification devices and record keeping of ID's applied to in-state animals.
- Lack of funding to obtain an adequate, searchable, electronic data base system to monitor and record animal ID and movement documents and the human resources necessary to effectively utilize and manage such a system.

Key elements

- Continued educational outreach to owners of smaller scale ("backyard") and non-commercial livestock and poultry operations as well as commercial producers that may not utilize standardized, official identification in their management systems.
- Continued educational outreach to Federally Accredited Veterinarians relative to state and federal requirements of the Animal Disease Traceability.
- Maintain inventory and record of Official Identification devices for continued distribution to producers and accredited veterinarians.
- Educational outreach to CT Licensed Livestock dealers and the sole approved CT livestock market relative to ADT requirements.
- Implement standardization of record keeping in the sole USDA approved and CT licensed livestock market to insure the timely availability of accurate information required to conduct trace backs.

- Continued enhancement of electronic methods of tracking DoAg's distribution of Official Identification devices and identification of premise locations of livestock and poultry within the state.

Primary benefits

- Enhanced ability to conduct trace back and trace forward in the event of a disease outbreak or other emergency driven responses.
- Facilitate animal movement for CT producers that are in compliance with ADT requirements to maximize the value of CT origin animals.
- Support and enhance animal health information systems.

Building on previous efforts to advance animal disease traceability

- Since 2013, all out of state ICVI's accompanying animals entering CT are scanned to VetSentry where certain designated data fields are indexed into a searchable web-based database.
- In 2014, CT origin ICVI's were also included in the information exported to VetSentry. This was initiated due to the time constraints for entering data into the VSPS system and the inconsistent reliability of the VSPS system in maintaining information and its inability to generate needed reports.
- Recently, the DoAg has further expanded on the information exported to VetSentry for inclusion in the searchable database. This has been accomplished by including information acquired from Brucellosis and TB test chart results, Brucellosis calf hood vaccination certificates and swine Pseudorabies and Brucellosis test results.
- Livestock fair and show superintendent reports listing exhibited animals and ownership contact information are reviewed for compliance with Official ID requirements and notifications of non-compliance along with outreach information are sent to individual exhibitors. This information is utilized in the issuance of PINS in EMRS2. In 2017 an electronic version of the Livestock Fair Superintendent Form was released.
- For the past 8 years, Official ID device distribution data has been and continues to be entered into an in-house electronic database (EXCEL spreadsheet). Data has also been entered into the USDA AINM database and EMRSII.
- Provide for more timely trace backs and tracking of animal movements.

Alternatives explored

- Acquire additional staff to replace a current vacant clerical position to perform data entry into EMRSII to assist the ADT Coordinator.
- Explored acquiring USA Herds system but have not been successful in doing so to date.

Projected costs

Expected project costs: (will be itemized in FY 2019 Cooperative Agreement for Traceability).

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture is responsible for administering animal health and disease surveillance programs including tracing animal movements and enforcing compliance with state and federal ADT requirements.

Connecticut, although a relatively small state geographically, has a large domestic poultry population totaling over 6 million, the majority of which, 5.5 million, are in table egg production. Other populations of domestic poultry within the state include birds in smaller floor egg production operations, turkey meat production, upland game birds raised for release, small backyard rural and urban flocks and show birds raised by hobbyists. Connecticut is also home to Charles River Avian Products, a firm that raises and maintains flocks of specific pathogen free chickens to provide eggs and other avian products for use in research, laboratory diagnostic testing and the pharmaceutical industry both nationally and internationally. The poultry industry contributes over 250 million dollars a year to the Connecticut economy and provides several hundred jobs.

As a result of the large poultry population in the state, there is a high volume of poultry and hatching egg movement, especially into the state, and a coincident large volume of import permits and corresponding NPIP and ICVI documents received by the DoAg. In light of the recent HPAI incidents in other parts of the U.S., it has become even more important for the DoAg to have the capability to efficiently track poultry and poultry product movements. Due to significant staffing shortages and current budgetary constraints, it is not possible to reassign other DoAg staff to our poultry or Traceability programs to input data from paper records into searchable electronic data bases.

Who are the primary constituents?

The State of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture is the primary constituent and is the state agency responsible for animal and poultry disease programs including ADT. With regard to ADT, such responsibilities include educational outreach and the collection of information from ID device distribution (including Scrapie); premise ID applications; Brucellosis and TB test records; laboratory submissions; brucellosis calf vaccination certificates; livestock and poultry import and exhibition permits and ICVI's (both CT and out-of-state origin). This information is recorded into hard copy files and entered into various electronic searchable databases to facilitate tracking animal and poultry movements.

Other stakeholders include producers, the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (UConn), Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, Connecticut Department of Public

Health, Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

Traceability data will be used in-house for epidemiological trace backs, as an enforcement tool with respect non-compliance with state and federal ADT requirements by producers, livestock and poultry dealers, approved markets and accredited veterinarians. Externally, information will be available for other states and USDA relating to animal movements and compliance with ADT requirements 24/7.

Public and animal health is the primary focus. Animal disease control is key to protecting the marketability of Connecticut livestock and poultry both domestically and internationally. To that end, the DoAg places a high importance on not only maintaining but also enhancing the elements of its ADT program.

The CT Animal Traceability Advisory Committee consists of: CT Farm Bureau, CT Veterinary Medical Association, CT Fairs, NY &VT DHIA, UCONN and Cooperative Extension, Holstein Assn., CT Sheep breeders. Members' resources and outreach have been utilized for mailing lists and support throughout ADT process. Contact has primarily been via phone and Email as needed, 2-3 times annually.

2.2 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In CT, ADT remains a stand-alone initiative. The DoAg has made significant improvements to its in-house searchable electronic data bases and has expanded its utilization of USDA electronic data bases by increasing the amount of data entered.

Initially, traceability was focused solely on animals involved in interstate movement for sale or exhibition, including both out of state origin animals moving into CT and CT origin animals moving to other states, and was based on data gathered from ICVIs and/or animal import permits. The ICVIs are scanned to VetSentry where certain fields of data the information is uploaded in to a searchable web-based database. As the program progressed, traceability expanded to include data on animals identified on test charts and vaccination certificates pursuant to their involvement in state and federal regulatory disease programs. Since 2015, information has been collected from Tuberculosis and Brucellosis test records and Brucellosis vaccination certificates. The information collected includes owner contact information, address and individual animal identification. The total numbers of animals not officially identified on movement documents continues to decline since implementation of the state's ADT program. The legibility of hand-written documents and partially completed ICVI's remains problematic. Many CVI's are not received in a timely fashion, adding to the delay in uploading information.

As the state expands its electronic record systems, the traditional paper file system is being maintained. Due to the physical relocation of the DoAg offices in 2017, organizational changes in the Bureau of Regulatory Services occurred that included

purging outdated records and significant changes to the structure of the document management systems.

With regard to official cattle identification devices, Connecticut previously used Ketchum® metal cattle tags having nine characters: two numeric digit state code, three alpha series and four digits in a chronological numerical series and with the backside of the tags stamped with “CONN” and not the US shield. Once this inventory of tags was depleted, the DoAg transitioned to the use of fully NUES compliant cattle tags displaying the US shield and provided by HASCO. However, due to complaints from veterinarians and producers of ear infections and poor legibility, CT has returned to using NUES compliant cattle tags supplied by Ketchum®. DoAg has traditionally issued official cattle ID tags to veterinarians only but is now also issuing such tags, in addition to “840” tags, directly to producers, some of whom were previously receiving tags from DHIA. Direct distribution of official cattle identification devices to producers has been extremely successful and the number of producers requesting official ID devices and the volume of tags, especially NUES tags, provided to producers has far exceeded our expectations. As was the case with cattle tags, CT has transitioned to using fully NUES compliant metal swine tags. DoAg maintains official tag distribution and end-user tag records in two in-house catalog systems: (1) a historical hand-written bound ledger with tag numbers pre-entered and (2) an Excel searchable data base documenting outgoing tags and incoming tag application information contained on ID Tag Record Forms submitted by veterinarians and DoAg livestock inspectors. The Department maintains original paper files of all tag data entered into the in-house Excel database. This includes a copy of completed “Official Animal Identification Tag Application” forms (two-page NCR) that are signed by producers agreeing to usage and record-keeping guidelines and tag usage records from veterinarians and DoAg inspectors.

DoAg accepts producer and accredited veterinarian requests for the issuance of sheep and goat flock-based number and serial numbered ear tags through the Scrapie program using Scrapie CoreOne. PIN numbers are allocated along with the tag order. PIN numbers are also issued based on information from CVMDL associated with laboratory submissions. The State Veterinarian has on file the original paper applications, CoreOne tag orders along with a computer file folder containing the electronic receipts. DoAg personnel also maintain a backup Excel data base of the information. State and federal regulations require producers to maintain their tag records for a minimum of 5 years and make them available upon request by state or federal personnel.

Other USDA official ear tags requiring premise identification number (PIN) issued through the PIN allocator are handled through the Standardized Premises Identification System (SPIS), EMRS2 and the AIN tag manager. A separate hard-copy file is maintained to record tag distribution to producers by maintaining a copy of completed “Official Animal Identification Tag Application” forms (two-page NCR) that are signed by producers agreeing to usage and record-keeping guidelines.

DoAg continues to use an in-house Microsoft Access-based electronic record system, developed and implemented in 2014, for issuing and recording livestock and poultry import permits. The system requires certain mandatory fields of data to be entered before an import permit can be completed, printed and issued in order to enhance the traceability of imported animals. The system has the capability and is used to match and track ICVI's with their corresponding import permits and, therefore, is useful in determining if animals have met all import requirements. Finally, the system generates enforcement letters for violations of import requirements.

As cited above, the DoAg uses an in-house developed Microsoft Access-based electronic record system for issuing and recording livestock and individual poultry import permits. This system does not capture poultry and hatching eggs imported under blanket or group import permits issued to out of state hatcheries. All information received from out of state hatcheries requesting import permits involving shipments to multiple destinations within CT will be entered into the EMRS2 database, issued a PIN number as well as create an animal business(s) for each premise, primary phone, primary species and purpose information. Fields of data captured from shipping invoices and 9-3 NPIP forms, including owner name, street address, and town to which birds are shipped. This will provide a more efficient means of identifying premises in CT where poultry is kept and/or sold and, therefore, will facilitate a more rapid and effective response to a poultry disease outbreak incident.

All animals seized by the DoAg pursuant to animal neglect and cruelty investigations are Officially Identified with electronic devices such as RFID Tags and Equine microchips.

Currently, electronic tracing is not limited to any specific time of day and can be performed by ADT coordinator, the Bureau Director, or the State Veterinarian. Hard copy files are maintained and can be manually searched if necessary.

2.3 STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses

DoAg is not able to capture reliable premise location information for many smaller, non-commercial type producers.

DoAg does not have a useful and compatible electronic system that has the capability of automatically communicating with other systems promoted by USDA.

The one and only approved livestock market in CT presents a significant weakness. The market operators refuse to keep adequate and reliable records to enable timely tracing of animals that have moved through the market. Frequently, the market refuses to have animals identified properly; does not ensure that out of state origin animals are managed within state and federal requirements; refuses to provide state and federal

officials with requested records on a timely basis; and, in general, refuses to cooperate with state and federal officials in spite of numerous enforcement actions. Inability to efficiently and effectively search electronic batches or grouped submissions of scanned copies of non-standardized hard copies of out-of-state origin ICVIs.

DoAg’s current staffing levels, especially in clerical support, are not adequate to perform data entry timely manner into the CORE 1 application.

Strengths

The DoAg considers Connecticut’s Animal Disease Traceability program an important element of the state’s overall livestock and poultry health programs. Activities related to the administration of the ADT program and its continued improvement is carried out by dedicated, motivated staff members that are committed to its success.

With increasingly less reliance on paper only systems, the DoAg has continued to improve its capabilities and performance in successfully conducting timely traces and sharing information with other entities. The Trace Performance Measure (TPM) rating reports from USDA, APHIS, VS for Connecticut during the 2016 and 2017 Cooperative Agreement periods provide evidence of that continued success. Connecticut received excellent performance ratings in all trace categories during the time period of 4/1/16 to 3/31/18. (See tables below.)

**Trace Performance Measures (TPM)
State Rating Report
3rd Year Comparison
2016 Cooperative Agreement Period**

State: Connecticut

The table below summarizes Connecticut’s TPM rating for % Successfully Completed and Elapsed Time for the 2016 Cooperative Agreement period (4/1/16 – 3/31/17.)

| TPM | Quota | Total Traces | Successfully Completed | % Successfully Completed | Median Elapsed Time (Hrs.) | % Quota Achieved * | % Successfully Completed Rating | Elapsed Time Rating |
|-------|-------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| TPM 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 100% | 0.1 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |
| TPM 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 4.8 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |
| TPM 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0.3 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |

The % of quotas achieved for the 2016 cooperative agreement period are based on the total number of TPMs records, including those that were terminated.

**Trace Performance Measures (TPM)
State Rating Report
4th Year Comparison
2017 ADT Cooperative Agreement Period**

State: Connecticut

The table below summarizes your State's TPM rating for % Successfully Completed and Elapsed Time for the 2017 Cooperative Agreement period.

| TPM | Quota | Total Traces | Successfully Completed | % Successfully Completed | Median Elapsed Time (Hrs.) | % Quota Achieved * | % Successfully Completed Rating | Elapsed Time Rating |
|-------|-------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| TPM 2 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 100% | 0.3 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |
| TPM 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 0.2 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |
| TPM 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 100% | 0.1 | 100% | Excellent | Excellent |

* The TPM value needs improvement to be rated Acceptable or better.

The % of quotas achieved for the 2017 cooperative agreement period are based on the total number of TPMs records, including those that were terminated.

2.4 OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

Opportunities

- Enhance the DoAg's relationship with and cooperation from industry to work toward achieving mutually beneficial goals.
- Enhance public health.
- Enhance disaster response.
- Eliminate the redundancy resulting from maintaining separate systems to track premise and animal identification and movement data.

Threats

There continues to be resistance from non-traditional livestock entities that are customarily reluctant to accept any and all government regulatory oversight which presents a threat to the overall success of the ADT program.

Resistance to comply with the provisions of the ADT Rule from approved livestock market and livestock/poultry dealers is still encountered. Withholding, and sometimes even falsification of information, is done to conceal illegal movements, restrict competition, conceal income sources, i.e. cash sales, and evade regulatory enforcement actions.

2.5 INVENTORY OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Currently, one full-time DoAg staff member serves part-time (12 hours per week) as the ADT Coordinator with 30% of her fulltime salary and fringe benefits funded by the 2018 Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative agreement. However, the ADT coordinator's activities related to ADT occupy at least 70% of her time even though only 30% of her time is charged to the ADT Cooperative Agreement.
- The DoAg's State Veterinarian, management staff and the CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS) staff provide administrative and financial management support. (DAS serves as DoAg's business office.)
- 3 Full time animal health technicians provide support and outreach.
- All staff is equipped with laptop computers, wireless air cards, VPN, cell phones and are able to access a network provided by DAS when in the central office and remotely from the field.
- USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources are accessed via the internet remotely and from the DoAg central office.
- CT origin and Out-of-State ICVIs, (post scanning for data base entry) are filed by the year and separated by species and individual months.
- Brucellosis and Tuberculosis test charts, (post scanning for data base entry) are also filed by year, species, and month. Swine Pseudorabies test result reports are a sub file included with the Brucellosis test result reports.
- Brucellosis calf vaccination certificates are filed chronologically for each year.
- A separate file is kept for individual herd Ring Tests (retail raw milk and cheese herds) and are filed chronologically.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 VISION STATEMENT

The Department of Agriculture will benefit the citizens of the state through proactive programs that address the issues of the changing face of agriculture.

3.2 MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Agriculture is to foster a healthy economic, environmental and social climate for agriculture by developing, promoting and regulating agricultural businesses; protecting agricultural and aquaculture resources; enforcing laws pertaining to domestic animals; and promoting an understanding among the state's citizens of the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, its cultural heritage and its contribution to the state's economy.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 STRATEGIC GOAL(S)

Implement a State wide system to distribute and track animal identification and capture animal ID information obtained from CVI's.

Update and maintain a plan that can be used for all hazard disaster response that will be used by multiple agencies within this state and interstate.

4.2 PROGRAMMATIC GOALS (objectives)

- Continue outreach activities to accredited veterinarians regarding the data quality and processing for animal health information forms
- Continue outreach activities to industry regarding the importance and benefits of animal disease traceability
- Monitor CVI data quality
- Continue scanning livestock movement documents to Vet Sentry to capture and input certain fields of data into a searchable data base to facilitate effective and timely traces.
- Improve data sharing capability by working with Vet Sentry to build a report of CT data to input in to AHERS, AINM and EMRSII data bases.
- Improve and maintain retrieval of available traceability information.
- Update enforcement authority through legislation that streamlines and supports current requirements of the ADT rule clarify laws and regulations.
- Promote wider utilization of MIMs application by demonstrating its benefits to individual accredited veterinarians and groups of veterinarians within individual practices, especially those that manage commuter cattle herds within the state which are also the herds larger in size (1,000 head or more.)

4.3 ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Performance standard 1: Determines the State/Tribe in which the animal was officially identified and notifies the State/Tribe of the reference animal's official ID number. (To be performed by the animal health official in the receiving state or tribe)
 - Less than one day to determine which state applied official ID and notification of the State Animal Health Official of the state of origin. CVIs could be searched electronically or manually within that time period and once the animal location within the state has been determined, animal identification could easily be physically confirmed by an animal health technician or the State Veterinarian visiting that farm. The caveat being that access to the farm may be restricted if the farm owner is not present.
- Performance standard 2: Confirms that it has documentation that an official ID number has been issued within its jurisdiction and that it has contact information for the person who received that number. (To be performed by the animal health official in the state or tribe where application of official ID occurred.)

- If Connecticut is notified that official ID has been applied in CT to a reference animal it is expected that CT animal health officials could confirm that application within one day provided that the department has a record of that application.
 - It is expected that CT animal health officials could verify that a reference animal was identified within the state within five days if the department did not have records of the application of ID to the reference animal at the time of notification.
- Performance standard 3: Determines the State or Tribe from which the animal was moved interstate into its jurisdiction and notifies that State or Tribe of the reference animal's official ID number. (To be performed by the animal health official in the receiving state or tribe.) This is somewhat dependent on the timeline in which CT animal health officials receive an CVI from the state of origin. The fact is that it is possible for the animal to arrive in the state long before the department receives an electronic or paper copy of an CVI.
 - Limiting factors in this are delays from accredited veterinarians in the state of origin forwarding copies to their state animal health officials, then further delays in review by the animal health officials in the state of origin and forwarding reviewed CVIs to CT.
- Performance standard 4: Determines the address or location from which the reference animal was shipped. (To be performed by the animal health official in the state or tribe where the animal was shipped from.)
 - The time it would take to verify that a reference animal originated from CT would be less than one day provided that the department was in possession of an CVI bearing the animal's ID and origin. There is the potential for delay from the accredited veterinarian in CT submitting the CVI in a timely fashion. The department will monitor and encourage timely submission of CVIs issued by accredited veterinarians.

4.4 DATA REQUIREMENTS

- Location identification, if used, will be obtained from SPRS or EMRSII.
- Official ID will comply with the CFR requirements.
- Official ID will consist of "840" compliant tags and metal NUES tags (until such time that DoAg's current inventory is depleted.)
- Use of AINM database system to track distribution of ID devices is the goal.
- Data will be shared with other states and USDA upon request.

4.5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

- Connecticut's IT traceability program objectives will be met by indexing of data fields from animal movement and regulatory disease program documents by Vet-Sentry data entry into a searchable data base in combination with CT inputting tag distribution data into the AINM system.

- Improving data sharing capabilities with other systems will be a priority in meeting program objectives. Connecticut ADT staff will work with Vet Sentry to build reports formatted to share and provide data to AHER.

4.6 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- The State of Connecticut has a COOP plan.
- During the next 3 years and assuming no reduction in the current level of available resources, the DoAg will continue to gather premise, animal population and animal movement information. However, completion on a timely basis will be a challenge due to reductions in clerical staff available to assist with the ADT activities.
- Once information is gathered, temporary staff or an intern may be an option for data entry into EMRSII and in-house systems presently in place.
- It is essential that the USDA, APHIS, VS traceability cooperative agreement funding allocated to Connecticut remain at least at present levels with no future reductions. This funding is required to adequately augment state resources dedicated to the ADT program and support necessary activities and accomplishments consistent with state and federal ADT program goals and objectives.

4.7 ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS

4.7.1 Executive Support

- The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture recognizes the importance of enhancing animal disease traceability in protecting the state's livestock industry and facilitating commerce for Connecticut livestock producers through the ADT program as described in this road map.
- The Commissioner holds a senior staff meeting weekly at which time any issues or updates related to the ADT program are presented.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- Coordination and oversight procedures are in place in the administration of USDA Cooperative Agreements. Oversight is provided both by USDA and the State of CT. DoAg's Director of the Bureau of Regulatory Services provides oversight of ADT activities and the CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides oversight of financial matters relative to the cooperative agreement.
- Administration of the ADT cooperative agreement follows the DoAg organizational structure.

4.7.3 Policy

- The DoAg adheres to all State of Connecticut policies with regard to human resources, contracting, purchasing and accounts payable and the Code of State Ethics in administering USDA Cooperative Agreements.
- Existing animal importation regulations will be reviewed and amended as necessary to maintain consistency with the federal ADT rule and to enhance interoperability with other state plans.

4.7.4 Staffing: Addressed in section 2.5

4.7.5 Budget requirements: Expenses paid with cooperative agreement funds are limited to only those identified in the Work and Financial Plans as approved by USDA with state oversight by DoAg and DAS.

Cost sharing is achieved by support from the DoAg animal health unit staff, Bureau of Regulatory Services management, and the state veterinarian. In addition, the DoAg provides workspace for data entry, storage space, administrative support, and a state assigned vehicle including all associated transportation costs incurred by the ADT Coordinator.

Currently, the USDA Traceability Cooperative Agreement only partially funds Connecticut's total activities relative to ADT and, similarly, partially funds a staff position dedicated to ADT activities.

It is expected that FY 2019 CT traceability cooperative agreement funding level will be similar to that of the FY 2018 agreement and cover similar categories of eligible costs as that the FY 2018 agreement.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

- Accredited veterinarians will be informed of changes and acceptable forms of official animal ID that will be required for issuance of ICVIs by direct communication, group email, department and professional newsletters as well as industry organizations. The phasing out of NUES tags being accepted as an official means of ID with the transition to RFID devices will be stressed.
- When the DoAg adopts electronic ICVI submission processes, notification will be made through direct communication to Category 2 accredited veterinarians, to industry organizations and other appropriate stakeholders.
- Traceability staff will promote utilization of MIMs application and use of RFID identification by demonstration in veterinary practices that manage larger commuter herds that may see the benefit and savings in using an electronic data capture system in the field.
- Accredited veterinarians are responsible for applying and reporting official identification devices.

4.7.6.2 Livestock markets

- Currently, state and/or USDA officials meet with all livestock market operators at least annually. CT livestock markets are monitored periodically by DoAg staff and/or USDA, VS staff. In 2017, Public Act No. 17-133 amended state law regulating Commission Sales

Stables. It strengthened livestock commission sales record keeping requirements, facilitated record review by state officials and more clearly mandated compliance with official animal identification requirements. Slaughter only tags will continue to be used for sheep and goats.

- Out of state origin animals that are imported direct to the market, but that do not meet state importation laws and regulations, will be monitored for compliance with state and federal ADT requirements.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

- The number of producers inquiring about the use of Official ID devices continues to increase. In addition, DoAg's direct distribution of Official ID devices to producers continues to steadily increase. These factors are an indication that acceptance of and compliance with ADT requirements continues to improve among both commercial and non-commercial producers.
- Compliance with ADT requirements by CT licensed livestock dealers and market segment of the industry continues to be a problem in spite of outreach education and enforcement activities.
- Compliance with ADT requirements among Category 2 Accredited Veterinarians continues to improve.

4.8 MONITORING AND REPORTING INTERSTATE MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

- Since 2012, the following data is reported quarterly to APHIS, Veterinary Services as part of DoAg's cooperative agreement for traceability.
 - Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents created within the State/Tribe/Territory on a year-to-date basis for move-out animals
 - Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents received for move-in animals
 - Number of animals by species and class for move-in events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified
 - Number of animals by species and class for move-out events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified
 - Volume of distribution for each official numbering system/device issued by the State/Tribe/Territory.
 - Number of outreach events attended, and individual contacts made during outreach events and mailings

- Pursuant to the 2019 ADT guidance, the following data will also be captured and reported quarterly to USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services as part of DoAg’s cooperative agreement for traceability.
 - Number and type of official identification distributed and /or applied.
 - Number of Class II veterinarians using eICVIs.
 - Number of eCVIs issued per species.
 - Compile a list of the eICVI applications used by accredited veterinarians with in Connecticut.

V TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 RANKING OF PRIORITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

Specific steps for advancement over the current level for ADT are as follows:

- Continue identifying premises and enumerating livestock and poultry kept within the state.
- Enhance the capability of electronic data sharing with other systems.
- Focus educational outreach efforts to producers and veterinarians on the importance of transitioning from NUES tags being considered as an acceptable form of official ID to RFID ID devices through direct contacts, the DoAg website, and other publications
- Increase both the number of RFID Official ID devices distributed to producers and the number of producers to which they are distributed.
- Continue educational outreach to owners on the use of RFID devices in smaller scale (“backyard”) and non-commercial livestock and poultry operations as well as commercial producers.
- Promote the use of eICVIs by accredited veterinarians relative to state and federal requirements for Animal Disease Traceability, along with the use of the MIMs system
- Continue data entry and issuance of PINs in EMRSII.
- Introduce legislative proposals to revise state laws and regulations relative to ADT standards as deemed necessary.
- Investigate the state’s ability to discourage the use of paper ICVI’s by charging a fee for paper forms.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES

It is anticipated that implementation of the objectives for the advancement of traceability as described above can commence with the next work plan.