

# ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR ILLINOIS

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**A Three-Year Plan**

**Submitted by:**

**THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**MARK J. ERNST  
STATE VETERINARIAN  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
801 E. SANGAMON AVENUE  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62794-9281  
217-782-4944**

*Mark J. Ernst, D.V.M.*

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**Submitted to:**

**DR. FRANK WILSON  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR ILLINOIS  
VETERINARY SERVICES  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Illinois is the home to approximately 18,772 cattle farms and 7,220 swine farms, which make up the majority of food animal production in the state. Illinois is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest swine producing state in the country and 2nd largest state for corn and soybeans, making crops, and livestock dependant on crops, a vital economic driver for the state.

A major concern with IDOA's (Illinois Department of Agriculture) traceability system is that much of the traceability information is not in a searchable database and due to state budget constraints; there is a shortage of personnel to perform the necessary data input. The Department has initiated the process of scanning and indexing all CVI's for integration with software capable of searching based on specific data fields, however the ability to search scanned, hand-written documents is difficult and of limited value. IDOA uses the Surveillance Collaboration Services (SCS) software system to whatever extent possible to improve electronic searchability. This system supports other state and federal animal health information needs. IDOA is utilizing available staff to perform traceability related data input.

Currently, Illinois has estimated 67% of swine premises and 46% of bovine premises registered in the state. Most of the large producers are registered and so it is also estimated that over 80% of Illinois livestock originate from a registered premises. However, this still leaves a significant number of unregistered premises that could slow down a response to a major animal disease outbreak. Therefore, IDOA continues to promote and encourage livestock premises registration. IDOA uses only the State Premises Registration System (SPRS) utilizing the 7-digit alphanumeric system. This provides for a more uniform and less confusing system of location identification. Illinois continues to promote the use of electronic CVI's issued in the State, especially for interstate movement.

The number of animals individually and/or group lot identified as well as the number that can be traced back to the last point of commingling continues to increase within the state. NUES tags provided by USDA are distributed to producers on a case by case basis. The use of 840 tags continues to be strongly encouraged. Electronic 840 tags are distributed by IDOA on a limited basis.

As Illinois continues to improve its ability to trace diseased animals, the industry will be better able to respond to an emergency livestock disease and minimize the damage to the industry.

## **II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION**

### **2.1 Who are we?**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture is the lead agency in Illinois for Animal Disease Traceability. Those impacted most by livestock traceability are livestock producers and markets. These, along with veterinarians, are the primary constituents and require the most collaboration.

In Illinois, statewide means the state of Illinois.

Traceability data in Illinois is used to:

- Respond to disease outbreaks
- Monitor program diseases

- Provide information to livestock owners about current disease concerns and future issues.

The following values guide the animal disease traceability system:

- Protecting Animal Health
- Protecting Human Health
- Protecting the Marketability of the Livestock Industry in Illinois

The livestock advisory board in Illinois is made up of the following organizations:

Horsemen’s Council of Illinois

Illinois Association of County Fairs

Illinois Beef Association

Illinois Farm Bureau

Illinois Milk Producers Association

Illinois Pork Producers Association

Illinois Sheep Industry

Illinois Horse and Pony Breeders and Exhibitors Association

Illinois Deer and Elk Association

Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners

Illinois Poultry Association

Illinois Gamebird Association

Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association

Illinois FFA

USDA-APHIS, VS

USDA-FSA

USDA-NASS

## **2.2 Where are we now?**

Animal disease traceability is defined as a system that enhances state and federal animal health official’s ability to conduct a disease investigation and locate the origin of diseased livestock and any trace forward locations. The animal disease traceability system links, expands, and enhances a number of current systems which store animal health information.

The following are measures of current traceability capabilities.

- Determine the state in which the animal was officially identified and notify that state of the reference animal’s

official identification number. This typically occurs within one business day depending on type of official ID.

- Confirm that IDOA has documentation that an official ID number was issued within its jurisdiction and that it has contact information for the person who received that number. Some are confirmed within minutes of receipt. Some may take several days. We have implemented procedures to make this process more efficient.
- IDOA determines the state from which the reference animal was moved interstate into IDOA's jurisdiction and notifies that state of the reference animal's official ID number. We anticipate this takes 1-10 business days depending on the type of ID, how long post movement the trace is initiated, whether the official ID was recorded on a CVI, and whether the CVI was filed with the state. Search time is markedly reduced if an e-CVI was completed for the movement.
- Determine the location from which a reference animal was shipped. We anticipate this takes 1 to 7 days depending on the type of official ID, how long after it was moved that we are tracing it, whether the official ID was recorded on a CVI and whether the CVI was filed with the state of origin on a timely basis.

IDOA currently complies with USDA traceability standards.

- USDA approved official ID are approved for all species by IDOA.
- 840 tags are distributed through the AIN system.
- IDOA utilizes the national allocator to assign premises ID.
- IDOA does not use or recognize Owner/Shipper Statements for interstate movement of livestock.
- Requests for information are available during business hours.

### **2.3 Strengths of the Program:**

- A high percentage of livestock originate from registered premises.
- CVI's are filed by state and species.
- Import and export CVI's are scanned and indexed for electronic searchability.
- There is increased utilization of e-CVIs by veterinarians

### **Weakness of the Program:**

- Illinois does not have mandatory identification of animals when they leave the farm of origin and enter intrastate commerce.

- Illinois still recognizes registration tattoos as official identifiers when the animal is accompanied by the registration certificate.
- Not all official identification tags, certificates of veterinary inspection and vaccination certificates are searchable electronically; however, the ability to search these documents electronically is improving.
- Illinois does not have mandatory premises registration.
- Budget and personnel challenges continue to make data input and electronic searchability difficult to achieve.
- IT support is very limited in the state system.

#### **2.4 Opportunities and Threats:**

Improving animal disease traceability decreases the threat to the livestock industry from disease as well as improves response to disease occurrences. The traceability rule provides opportunities to improve efficiencies in data collection, storage, searching capability and the ability to share information.

#### **2.5 Inventory of Existing Infrastructure and Suitability Assessment**

- IDOA employs one field veterinarians and six animal and animal products investigators, who have limited time for traceability work. In the office, IDOA employs the State Veterinarian, Assistant State Veterinarian, Animal Emergency Disease Coordinator, and three clerical staff that allocate a portion of their time to traceability.
- NUES tags are distributed by the Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare.
- There is adequate office space availability.
- IDOA has access to the SPRS and AIN system.
- IDOA and the USDA/Veterinary Services Area Office manage a combination of paper and electronic records.
- IDOA files paper CVI's by state and species and scanned CVI's by state.
- It is anticipated that automated data capture capability will improve with the use of existing software resources available through the state.

### **III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY**

#### **3.1 Vision Statement**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture's vision is to promote and regulate agriculture in a manner which encourages farming and agribusiness while protecting Illinois' consumers and our natural resources.

#### **3.2 Mission Statement**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture will be an advocate for Illinois' agricultural industry and provide the necessary regulatory functions to benefit consumers,

agricultural industry, and our natural resources. The agency will strive to promote agri-business in Illinois and throughout the world.

#### **IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS**

##### **4.1 Strategic Goals With Available Funding**

- Illinois has approximately 60% of premises registered and continues to educate stakeholders on the benefits to those that have not yet registered.
- Illinois is striving to enhance the tag distribution recording system including improving reporting of tags issued to producers by veterinarians and developing a system for distribution of tags directly to producers.
- IDOA uses the SCS software system to make more traceability data searchable.
- IDOA maintains MIMS software and PDA's and has trained field staff to use this equipment for program disease herd tests.
- IDOA continues to encourage accredited veterinarians to use electronic systems for submitting tests and for issuing CVI's.
- IDOA continues to encourage producer groups, livestock markets, and state exhibitions to use official 840 RFID tags and premises registration.
- IDOA purchases a substantial number of 840 RFID tags annually to distribute to veterinarians and producers.

##### **4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives):**

- Monitor ICVI data quality.
- Input data into appropriate systems.
- Improve retrieval of available traceability information.
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed.
- Provide information regarding traceability including official ID devices on IDOA website and to livestock producers and veterinarians.
- IDOA staff reviews certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) for compliance with import requirements and official identification of animals on the CVI's.
- Enhance IT infrastructure and coordinate with USDA to make data compatible.
- Establish and/or update tag distribution record system.
- IDOA will continue to enhance IT infrastructure and the tag distribution record system as resources allow according to need.

##### **4.3 Animal Disease Traceability Performance Measures**

IDOA uses the following traceability performance standards to measure progress:

- Determine the state in which the animal was officially identified and notify that state of the reference animal's official identification number.
- Confirm that the IDOA has documentation that an official ID number was issued within its jurisdiction and that it has contact information for the person who received that number.
- Determine the state from which the animal was moved interstate into IDOA's jurisdiction and notify that state of the reference animal's official ID number.
- Determine the address or location from which reference animal was shipped.

#### **4.4 Data Requirements**

- IDOA uses the SPRS premises registration system and plans to continue to use that system as well as encouraging additional producers to register. Our current premises database is updated/validated regularly.
- IDOA accepts all official individual animal ID methods that are approved by USDA.
- IDOA allows tag distribution to producers in addition to the current tag distribution of metal tags to veterinarians. The distribution system to producers is tracked in accordance with USDA guidelines. This is accomplished by using the AIN Management system and state tag distribution database.
- IDOA distributes a certificate of veterinary inspection form for interstate use and allows the use of m-CVI, Global Vet Link, and USDA-VSPS for electronic CVIs.
- Information is shared with other states and USDA when necessary for animal disease traceability. It may be shared in electronic or hard copy format depending on the type of information requested.
- Group/lot official numbers are handled in accordance with USDA requirements.

#### **4.5 Information Technology Plan**

- IDOA uses and plans to continue to use the SPRS system for premises registration and the AIN for 840 tags. Premises registration is collected by paper and manually entered by IDOA.
- IDOA utilizes SCS software and stores the information in the federal database.



- IDOA will add as much traceability information as possible to the SCS system.
- IDOA is working on transferring XML data to a state database to improve search capabilities.

#### **4.6 Resource Requirements**

- IDOA will utilize existing staff, both field staff and office staff, to further animal disease traceability. Additional staff time is needed for a timely review, including accuracy checks, of permits and CVI's.
- Automated data capture resources are needed for such things as CVI's, permits and tag databases.

#### **4.7 Organizational Needs**

- Animal disease traceability is managed by the State Veterinarian. This program is necessary for all other animal health programs to succeed. Traceability is necessary to detect, control and eradicate all program diseases as well as any emergency or emerging diseases
- Illinois' traceability advisory group is made up of various livestock groups, farm organizations, university and government agencies all listed above. They are engaged on an as-needed basis and the group has not met in several years.

##### **4.7.1 Outreach**

###### **4.7.1.1 Veterinarians:**

- IDOA cooperates with the USDA-VS to deliver accreditation training to veterinarians, part of which discusses traceability.
- IDOA continues to educate veterinarians on the benefits of electronic ICVIs and recommend their use when dealing with large numbers of livestock so that official identification may be automatically uploaded.

###### **4.7.1.2 Livestock Markets, Dealers and Truckers**

- IDOA licenses Livestock Markets and Dealers. With this licensure comes recordkeeping requirements that are necessary for animal disease traceability.
- IDOA staff inspects markets and dealers to ensure accurate records and animal identification are being kept to allow animal disease

traceability. These inspections along with initial licensure inspections are directed toward education and outreach of record keeping requirements to ensure animal traceability.

#### **4.7.1.3 Industry as a Whole**

- The largest livestock sector in Illinois is swine, of which we have excellent traceability, including 67% of all swine premises registered. The majority of the largest swine producers have registered their premises. With cattle being the primary target in the traceability rule, considerable outreach focus is required for those producers working through the Illinois Beef Association, Dairy Associations and the Illinois Farm Bureau.
- Traceability is also promoted at all emergency preparedness programs for producers and veterinarians.

#### **4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity**

- IDOA reviews all import CVIs to insure compliance with import requirements.
- The following data for livestock movements is compiled on quarterly reports in the calendar year:
  - Number of livestock ICVIs created within the State on a year-to-date basis for exported animals.
  - Number of livestock ICVIs received for imported animals.
  - Number of livestock by species, officially identified for import events associated with ICVIs.
  - Number of livestock by species, officially identified for export events associated with ICVIs.
- The State maintains the number of official identification devices distributed by State Animal Health Officials or agents.

## **V. TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Ranking of Priorities for Advancement**

- IDOA is exploring ways to make use of the SCS software system and make an effort to enter as much traceability data as possible into this system so that this information can be searched electronically in an efficient manner. This may include the following:
  - Monitor ICVI data quality
  - Input data into appropriate systems
  - Improve retrieval of available traceability information

-Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed

-Review certificates of veterinary inspection (CVI) for compliance with import requirements and official identification of animals on the CVI's.

-Enhance IT infrastructure and coordinate with USDA to make data compatible

- IDOA continues to register premises and will continue to educate stakeholders on the benefits of registration. IDOA will also continue to update and renew the database.
- IDOA plans to continue enhancing the tag distribution recording system including improving reporting of tags issued to producers by veterinarians, markets, dealers and truckers and developing a system for distribution of tags directly to producers.
- IDOA plans to continue education and outreach with the livestock industry to explain animal disease traceability, its benefits and how officially identifying animals prior to leaving the farm of origin protects the industry.
- IDOA will provide information regarding traceability including official ID devices on IDOA website and to livestock producers and veterinarians.