

Animal Disease Traceability Status Report for USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
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- I. Current traceability situation: Maine still uses a combination of a paper-based system and electronic databases to record all of our livestock health data. Through semi-annual large animal veterinary continuing education meetings and regular written and electronic correspondence with Maine's agricultural stakeholders, including ADT information packets disseminated to all federally accredited and Maine-licensed veterinarians and livestock dealers in July 2013, we keep information exchange between ME DACF and our animal agriculture sector open, eliminating the need for an animal identification advisory group. We have adopted and integrated SCS/CoreOne software and have used the funds from our 2011- 2016 ADT cooperative agreements to contract with an individual to transfer files and enter and manage animal health data. As of FY17, we have made aspects of ADT – specifically animal movement data entry and CVI processing and animal traces – the primary responsibility of ME DACF administrative staff. We continue to work with TraceFirst on webinar trainings to maximize our understanding and fluency with SCS/CoreOne. Our most recent projects focus on utilizing CoreOne to document and track any HPAI-related visits to backyard poultry flocks and related quarantines. We will continue to integrate our Reportable Animal Disease (RAD) database into CoreOne in the next three years as well. In FY17, we digitized all of our RAD reports and created a SOP that will facilitate the continuation of these efforts – a step in the right direction
- II. Vision Statement: Since this Road Map was drafted six years ago, we have made substantial progress toward an electronic-based system of livestock health information. In FY17, Maine has approved the use of the mCVI software (in addition to Global Vet Link, or GVL) and our staff actively promote the use of such programs to increase our progress towards the digital age. We need to continue to transition our accredited veterinarians toward using electronic CVIs, digitized test charts and, to the extent possible, electronic form of animal identification. *Please see Section IV below for details on progress we've made towards these digitization goals.*
- III. Mission statement: Our mission is to continue to make more improvements over the next three years in animal disease traceability, specifically through increasing Maine veterinarians' access to traceability software; maximizing our use of SCS/CoreOne data management capabilities; through continuing education of livestock stakeholders on the ADT rule and the advantages and importance of official ID; and through training of our own staff on innovations in this field.

IV. Traceability requirements: we accept as a strategic goal being able to sustain and continue development of a state-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with state, territory and USDA standards.
Programmatic goals:

➤ 2018 (7th year):

1. Continue to refine our ability to accurately and effectively input data into SCS/CoreOne; our current focus is improving our data entry capacity to digitize as much animal movement paperwork as possible, and making that a DACF staff priority. We also continue to learn the data management capabilities in the system to improve our tracking of flock/herd locations and quarantine status, if applicable. We continue to network with TraceFirst software designers and SAHO colleagues in New England and beyond (Colorado, Texas, California) to learn the potential of SCS/CoreOne for these applications.
2. We will continue to provide outreach on ADT to existing producer groups, including youth agricultural groups like 4H and FFA, and accredited veterinarians at semiannual and seasonal meetings. Through the interactions we have with these existing groups, we are able to engage stakeholders in ways that are more effective than forming a separate advisory group.
3. We have established and implemented a new tag distribution system for both NUES tags (to select producers and Maine-licensed and federally accredited veterinarians) and RFID tags – please see the FY17 and FY18 ADT USDA CA work plans for details about outreach to the cervid, cattle and swine commodity sectors in particular.

➤ 2019 (8th year):

1. Continue activities detailed above and refine data sharing with other state and federal entities.

➤ 2020 (9th year):

1. It is difficult to plan beyond the two-year state budget cycle, as much may change – especially with a new administration due in Maine in 2019. Our intent is certainly to continue the conversion trajectory to mostly electronic records. StateVet.com “Lite” software feature of SCS/CoreOne is something we have just recently become familiar with, and, unlike it’s full-bore cousin, StateVet.com, the price is right (i.e. free!) Our trial of the full-capacity version in FY15 did not prove useful enough in terms of significantly increasing our data digitization goals to merit commit of state funds for its purchase.

Performance measures: *Location identification*: We have received training from our USDA APHIS VS district 1 partners on EMRS and have now assumed responsibility for issuing premises identification for Maine farms. *Official ID*: As prescribed in the ADT rule. *Tag distribution*: System described in FY18 ADT work plan. We anticipate continued distribution of the NUES tags to veterinarians as well as producers. Current stock of RFID tags is available to ME DACF who work with youth in agriculture to tag

market animals and at Maine sales and shows where out of state sales are likely; Premises ID is required prior to distribution of RFID tags and Prem ID number is associated with distributed RFID tags via SCS/CoreOne, paper ear tag records and, eventually, in the AIMS system. *Record keeping*: electronic and paper until we have faith that the electronic system is robust. No commuter herds. Data shared with other state, federal and tribal entities upon request. Currently, we accept both paper and electronic CVIs.

Information technology plan: The development of this plan is entirely dependent on resources which are currently very meager, outside of our USDA cooperative agreement. USDA assistance continues to be critical in moving this initiative in the right direction.

Resource requirements: We rely on at least 0.5 FTE staff position, provided via the USDA ADT CA, to carry out the investigations associated with ADT violations, in a non-animal disease outbreak situation. We don't anticipate any additional space needs and we will use in-house IT personnel or USDA TPM employees when we need assistance to conduct urgent tracebacks.

Organizational needs: We don't anticipate any change in organizational infrastructure at this time.

Executive Support: The current executive (the Commissioner of Agriculture) is fully supportive of enhanced animal disease traceability.

Coordination and Oversight: Within the socio-political group, the State Veterinarian bears overall responsibility for advancing animal disease traceability. She is also the Department's primary representative on the state's Emergency Response Team so she is actively engaged in emergency preparedness and response. The State Veterinarian has responsibility for assigning tasks involved in implementing the plan. Feedback is obtained through active engagement with producer groups and accredited veterinarians.

Policy: No policy amendments have been necessary to align state policies with ADT rule.

Staffing: Currently, handling animal disease traceability information is shared between the diagnostic laboratory director, the clerk for the Division of Animal and Plant Health, the ADT Technician (a USDA-funded portion of our Poultry Health Technician's position) and to a lesser extent, the State Veterinarian and the Assistant State Veterinarian. This situation will continue over the next three years, with possible elimination or absorption of the ADT Tech's responsibilities into the DAPH Clerk's responsibilities.

Budget requirements: With the exception of the ADT/PHT employee, who is funded by a USDA ADT cooperative agreement, all of the above-mentioned individuals are funded by state general fund dollars. They of course have numerous other job responsibilities in addition to ADT. The question asked by the previous Maine State Veterinarian persists: how can anyone insulate against budget shortfalls in the current climate of budget austerity and fiscal uncertainty? Unfortunately, ADT is not a high priority in the minds of most state legislators when animal disease emergencies are not underway. ME DACF continue to educate our state peers about the importance of

preparation, and the limited expansion of some ME DACF staff hours is a tiny step in the right direction.

Outreach: Accredited veterinarians: We continue to offer continuing educational meetings twice a year for large animal veterinarians, in Mar-April and Oct-November. We always take the opportunity to remind these individuals of their responsibilities as accredited veterinarians and will continue to do so in the future when the ADT rule becomes law. Livestock markets: We only have one market and our livestock specialist attends this market every week to assure that animals are correctly identified and that only health animals are offered for sale. We have used this forum to educate producers and livestock dealers about the ADT rule and enforcement of official ID requirements (eg scrapie tags.) Livestock industry: We continue to attend monthly and annual meetings of each of our producer groups and they are well-versed on the ADT rule. Recent outbreaks of SECD and HPAI have underlined the importance of traceability to our pork and poultry stakeholders. We'll continue to provide education and outreach to this vital community. Our primary species are dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry. Monitoring: We rely on SCS/CoreOne to retrieve data on number of animals and number of shipments, as well as animal import and export data. Paper records and Access database of eartags, as well as animal auction databases provide additional or supplemental information as needed.

V. Traceability implementation: Please refer to the FY18 ADT CA work plan for details.