

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR MONTANA

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

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7/3/2018



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In advancing animal disease traceability, Montana has two primary goals:

- 1) Increasing the overall number of animals that are identified in Montana by making official identification methods and devices readily available to producers.
- 2) Improve our ability to manage traceability data by increasing the use of electronic records and reporting, advocating for consistency and compatibility of electronic systems, and streamlining the data management process.

These goals will be accomplished by improving contact with and education of both industry and accredited veterinarians to ensure that information sharing is complete and efficient.

Official identification devices will be made available via multiple channels including, directly from the Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL), from accredited veterinarians, and from Brands Enforcement Division and market personnel. Forms of identification that will be made available include silver NUES tags, 840 RFID tags, and orange brucellosis vaccination 840 RFID tags. RFID tags will be made available as funding allows.

Record of official identification device distribution will be funneled into MDOL's Animal Health software USAHerds that will provide the foundation for traceability data in Montana. USAHerds will provide a single uniform resource that can be accessed by Animal Health, Brands, USDA APHIS VS, and other individuals as assigned to provide a 24-7 resource for look up of traceability data. MDOL will also utilize USDA APHIS VS's CoreOne software, our state's brands software programs, and other existing USDA databases (EMRS2, AINMS, Allocator, etc....) to complement our state's traceability system. MDOL utilizes a modified .75FTE for the entry of traceability data into animal health databases.

MDOL will continue to explore electronic data capture systems for official disease work, including testing, vaccination, and issuance of certificates of veterinary inspection. MDOL will provide support to industry for the adoption of these systems to facilitate reporting of captured data in a standardized format, consistent with the current USAHA XML standard. Additionally, MDOL has placed an emphasis on systems that directly integrate with our current animal health software. MDOL would also like to see better integration between USDA systems and state animal health software programs. Specifically, communication between CoreOne, EMRS2, and state systems would greatly benefit traceability efforts.

MDOL and MT USDA APHIS VS are working together on a coordinated effort to ensure that the maximum amount of data can be efficiently captured without duplication between the two offices.

Additionally, MDOL will continue to rely upon our state brand program to trace animals within Montana. This is accomplished through several avenues. Brand inspections conducted in-the-field, online, and at livestock markets are the core of the program. Brand inspections conducted at Montana livestock markets are currently entered real-time into a brand software program that reconciles buyers and sellers and allows MDOL to query brand records for animal health purposes. Brand inspectors are able to capture animal health information, including official identification, at the time of inspection. This allows more effective traceback of animals that have moved through livestock markets in Montana and will also allow more detailed information to be captured on specific groups of animals. For example, animals that originate from the Designated Surveillance Area can be checked in individually using official individual identification versus lot check-in under a registered brand. This will benefit both official disease programs as well as state based programs. Field inspection data are also entered into the same software program by office staff as they are received from the country.

MDOL will continue to work with USDA on enforcement of traceability requirements. This will include reviewing traceability data and sharing violations with USDA. MDOL would like to track veterinary violations by veterinarian, type of violation, and numbers of violations. This would allow targeted communication with veterinarians in order to improve compliance.

As all of the goals in this plan are already underway, MDOL's intent is to continue to refine and improve implementation and use of current tools to ensure effective traceability.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we? Animal disease traceability in Montana is the responsibility of MDOL and USDA APHIS VS. Within MDOL, the animal health and brands divisions both contribute to advancing traceability. This includes 3 veterinarians, 6 supporting staff, 3 animal health investigators/enforcement, and approximately 16 full time brands district men.

Montana has 7 reservations, 13 privately owned livestock markets, 500+ accredited veterinarians, 20 approved official tagging sites (including all of our livestock markets), and numerous active producer and industry organizations that all contribute to the success of Montana's industry.

2.2 Where are we now? MDOL has an animal health computer system where import data and export data for animals required to be official individually identified is entered, making traceability a cross-cutting component to all of our animal health disease programs. Additionally, MDOL has a brands market program in place that electronically records change of ownership at Montana livestock markets. This software allows for animals inspected at the market to have additional information recorded including official identification and also allows MDOL to create flags for certain classes of animal by registered brand.

The state of Montana's technology infrastructure is well grounded with many planned and anticipated improvements on the horizon. Currently a large volume of traceability data, including premises, ICVI, and state-disease program data, is contained within USAHerds. Official disease work including brucellosis and tuberculosis test data and official vaccination data is entered and held in USDA APHIS VS's Core One system. Traceability data can be uploaded into USAHerds when provided to MDOL from outside sources. Data can also be exported out of USAHerds for dissemination to necessary agencies and officials. The program is available 24/7 to state animal health officials, state brand officials, and any other individual on an as needed basis, including USDA APHIS VS personnel.

- 2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses: The primary strengths of Montana's traceability program are our animal health software system USAHerds, the brands software program, the historical knowledge of MDOL personnel, and the import permit system for all animals entering Montana.

The primary weaknesses of Montana's traceability program are the small number of personnel in department, the limited funding sources that are available for the advancement of traceability, the inability of federal systems (CoreOne and EMRS2) to communicate with state systems, and the resistance among industry against a federal or state driven traceability system.

- 2.4 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment:

- Human resources – The Animal Health Division of MDOL employs three full time veterinarians and 6 office support personnel who contribute to traceability in Montana. Additionally, three area investigators, 16 district Brands personnel, and 13 livestock markets personnel all contribute to traceability in Montana.
- Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field –USAHerds, Fort Supply (brands software), MIMS PDA use in the field, and federal databases.
- Access to USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources – MDOL's access to data lookup has significantly improved. MDOL now has a copy of our GDB files, access to CoreOne and other USDA databases to look up information. MDOL would like to increase the number of employees with access to USDA systems as well as increase the overall training level of all individuals with access.
- Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information – CVI's, official test charts, and vaccination certificates are stored in house and are matched up online through the Montana permitting system. MDOL has a retention schedule for all of these records with most being destroyed after 5 years. Brand inspection data is also maintained in house.
- Automated data capture capability – Currently Montana has 25 PDA's in use in the field in Montana that allows automated capture of data by accredited veterinarians

and Brands personnel. Additionally, there are more RFID wand readers in the field in use independent of PDA's. Tag information is downloaded and used to generate test and vaccination certificates. Electronic data capture is primarily occurring in and around Montana's Designated Surveillance Area for brucellosis but Montana has recently seen an increase in use at livestock markets and by veterinarians far removed from Montana's DSA. Brand inspection data for animals sold through a Montana livestock market is all entered electronically and is immediately searchable. Inspections conducted in the country are entered into the brands software program as they are received with a usual 4-6 month lag in paper-based inspections being electronically searchable.

- Interstate movement agreements – Montana currently has agreements with 5 states that allow the movement of certain classes of animals using brand information, provided the cattle meet certain requirements.
- Tagging stations – Montana currently has 20 approved tagging sites, including all 13 livestock markets.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

- 3.1 Mission Statement: The Animal Health Division is responsible for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases. This involves safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock 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 Control, Alternative Livestock, and Field Operations. Traceability while not a primary activity in Montana is integral in the implementation of all four of these major areas.

Cooperation with USDA/APHIS on eradication programs is conducted through the USDA APHIS VS AVIC. The programs receive laboratory support from the Diagnostic Laboratory Division. The Import/Export Section supervises the livestock and animal import permit system as provided for in Montana Statutes. The Disease Control Program functions to protect the Montana livestock industry from disease loss by providing for the diagnosis, prevention, control, and eradication of animal diseases. The Alternative Livestock Program regulates alternative livestock ranches with elk, deer, and other cervidae for disease control and inspection for ownership, in cooperation with the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Field operations include investigation of disease occurrence, import compliance and enforcement of Montana Codes and Administrative Rules. Recognition of veterinary practitioners to perform official work gives each program a necessary pool of professional service in field operations.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Programmatic goals(objectives):

A. Confidentiality

Problem: MDOL lacks the ability to legally protect all livestock data.

Section 9 of the Montana Constitution dictates that the public has the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

Montana recently passed a statute allowing for the protection of all information regarding the testing of any livestock. While this protects a large amount of data, some traceability data, such as data associated with the interstate movement of animals is not protected in Montana.

Possible Solution(s):

1. A confidentiality clause similar to that of North Carolina, Oklahoma, or Wyoming would allow Montana to maintain traceability data at the state level and ensure that it remains confidential. This would require action by Montana's legislature and is not something MDOL is actively pursuing at this time.

North Carolina's statute is as follows:

§ 106 24.1. Confidentiality of information collected and published.

All information published by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to this Part shall be classified so as to prevent the identification of information received from individual farm operators. All information received pursuant to this Part from individual farm operators shall be held confidential by the Department and its employees. Information collected by the Department from individual farm operators for the purposes of its animal health programs may be disclosed by the State Veterinarian when, in his judgment, the disclosure will assist in the implementation of these programs. Animal disease diagnostic tests that identify the owner of the animal shall not be disclosed without the permission of the owner unless the State Veterinarian determines that disclosure is necessary to prevent the spread of an animal disease or to protect the public health. (1979, c. 228, s. 3; 1993, c. 5, s. 1; 1997 261, s. 26; 2002 179, s. 8.)

2. Maintain data exclusively in federal databases. These databases have withstood legal challenges and freedom of information requests. However, under the new traceability framework, states are entirely responsible for traceability data within their states. Further, reliance on a federal database significantly reduces the state's flexibility to add and manipulate information. Lastly, the security protocol to access federal computer systems has proved to be a significant obstacle to usability.

B. Regulatory Authority to implement and maintain the state Traceability Program

Problem: MDOL deputizes veterinarians to perform official disease program work in Montana and has included a provision that requires compliance with federal regulations. Montana's rules regarding traceability requirements for animals entering Montana has not been updated since the final implementation of federal animal disease traceability program.

Possible Solution(s):

1. MDOL will continue to review existing administrative rules and departmental policy to ensure that adequate authority and regulation exists pertaining to animal disease traceability.

C. Distribution and application of official identification

Problem: Animals moved interstate will be required to be officially identified

Possible Solutions:

1. Encourage and facilitate the use of RFID tags by producers for official identification of animals. 840 RFID tags are available to producers with a premises registration number and can be purchased directly from manufacturers by the producer or can be made available by MDOL/APHIS during regulatory work.
2. Distribution of silver metal brite tags directly to the producer for application to animals intended for interstate movement by the producer. Tags could be applied at branding, processing, shipping, or during other management activities.
3. Distribution of silver metal brite tags to tagging stations/points of accumulation and Montana livestock markets for application to animals intended for interstate movement. This would allow producers who may not have sufficient facilities or capabilities to tag animals at the ranch of origin the opportunity to have animals officially identified.
4. Continued distribution of silver metal brite tags to accredited veterinarians for application to animals involved in official disease work or intended for interstate commerce.
5. Approve tagging sites in Montana in order to facilitate the interstate movement of animals.

D. Validation of official identification

Problem: Montana will be required to validate the application and/or issuance of official animal tag numbers.

Validation entails the use of distribution records to identify contact information for the individual/entity to which the numbers were issued.

Possible Solutions:

1. Assignment of tags to a ranch/producer based on name and physical address
2. Assignment of tags to ranch/producer using a location identifier (premises identification number, or a state assigned identifier)
3. Education of accredited veterinarians on good record keeping practices.

E. Capture of official identification

Problem: Montana will be required to validate the movement of animals involved in interstate movement.

Possible Solutions:

1. Some classes of animals will initially be exempt from the ID requirement during an initial phase in period.
2. Some classes of animals will be permanently exempt from having ID listed on ICVI.
3. State to state agreements may allow additional exemptions to ID requirements.
4. Official identification will be captured and recorded at the time an animal enters interstate commerce by veterinarian issuing ICVI.
5. Official identification captured and recorded by producer prior to animals entering interstate commerce.
6. Official identification captured as animals move through collection points, tagging stations, or Montana livestock markets.

Problem: For low cost technology, capture and recording of official ID is labor intensive, prone to recording errors, and dangerous for field personnel.

Possible Solutions:

1. Encourage and facilitate the use of RFID tags by producers for official identification of animals. 840 RFID tags are available to producers with a premises registration number and can be purchased directly from manufacturers by the producer or can be made available by MDOL/APHIS during regulatory work.

Problem: The traceability data generated when official identification is captured must be in a format that is searchable and readily accessible by animal health officials.

The primary source of traceability data is generated by accredited veterinarians in their day to day work. The submission of data from official disease work and the issuance of ICVIs provide MDOL with the core of our traceability system.

Possible Solutions:

1. Facilitate accredited veterinarians access to and understanding of electronic data formats, including, but not limited to:

- Electronic identification for use in official disease work
- Software/equipment for the capture of official disease work
- Electronically data submission
- Electronic health certificates

2. Supply equipment for the electronic capture of data to producers, tagging stations, Montana livestock markets, and accredited veterinarians.

3. When metal brite tags are used, encourage and facilitate the electronic recording of tag data. This can be done in the field at the time of capture or by manually entering traceability data into an electronic format. This solution remains time consuming and prone to transcription errors but generates searchable traceability data.

4. Recognition of and cooperation with existing industry programs/processes that generate traceability data, provide infrastructure, and benefit the Montana livestock industry.

5. MDOL will utilize a contract position to complete data entry of Montana origin CVIs. MDOL would like to transition this to a modified FTE position within MDOL, contingent upon ongoing financial support from USDA.

4.2 Animal disease traceability performance measures:

A. Time for MDOL to report to the State/Tribe of official tagging/identifying of an animal in question that has moved interstate:

If the animal in question has any form of official identification in its ear, reporting to the state of official tagging will be nearly instantaneous. OCV eartags and metal brite tags with state codes allow instant identification of the state of tagging. The AINMS which stores 840 tag data is a web based system and is available 24/7 so lookup of the tag can occur during non-business hours. MDOL expects to report to the State/Tribe of official tagging within 24 hours 70% of the time for

those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework.

B. Time Montana to provide a record of official tag distribution for an animal in question that was tagged in Montana:

Once it has been established that an animal was tagged in or originated from Montana, traceback within the state is the next step. This also should be accomplished within 24 hours 70% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework. Multiple systems exist at this level to allow verification of tag distribution and identification of the point at which the animal was first tagged (i.e. livestock market):

USDA Official Brucellosis Calfhood Vaccination (OCV) eartag: Brucellosis vaccination tags are distributed to accredited veterinarians in Montana and a spreadsheet is maintained of this tag distribution. The spreadsheet includes name of veterinarian, range of tags, and date distributed.

When an accredited veterinarian (AV) in Montana submits their vaccination certificates to MDOL/USDA, the tags that are allocated to a producer are entered into CoreOne. CoreOne can be queried by tag number and all activities associated with that tag can be located, including veterinarian and owner information.

Animals moved across state lines that are identified with OCV eartags are traceable back to Montana. Within Montana, the animals can be traced one of several ways.

- 1) CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work that was performed in Montana using the OCV eartag number as official ID. If the vaccination certificate is not reported to MDOL/USDA, the tag would not be recorded in CoreOne.
- 2) The tag can be traced back to the accredited veterinarian who applied the tag.
- 3) Accredited veterinarians are trained to/expected to maintain readily searchable records/logs of official eartags (both OCV and brite) they have applied or distributed, and are contacted to provide details relative to traces.
- 4) If the animal is branded, we can additionally use brand records to trace the animal.

USDA Silver Metal Tag: Silver Metal tags are distributed to accredited veterinarians in Montana for use as official identification in animals who do not already have another form of official ID. A spreadsheet is maintained of tag distribution. The spreadsheet includes name of veterinarian, range of tags, and date distributed.

When a silver metal tag is placed in an animal, the accredited veterinarian who places the tag is expected to keep record of what animal received the tag. Unless the tag is used as official identification for part of official disease work, the tag is not entered into CoreOne.

Producers that require official identification of their animals for interstate movement must pay an accredited veterinarian for their time and for the application of the tags. By allowing tags to

be applied by a producer, the financial burden on the producer and the time constraint for accredited veterinarians will be alleviated. MDOL in conjunction with USDA-APHIS-VS will begin distributing tags to producers who have either a PIN or a LID. Tag distribution will be recorded in a spreadsheet, in USAHerds, and if and when it is available to MDOL, in the AINMS.

Animals moved across state lines that have USDA silver metal tags in place are traceable back to Montana. Within Montana, the animals can be traced in one of several ways.

- 1) The tag can be traced back to the accredited veterinarian who applied the tag.
- 2) CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work that was performed in Montana using the silver metal tag number as official ID. If the silver metal tag has not been used in official disease work, or if the information has not been reported to MDOL/USDA, the tag would not be recorded in CoreOne.

840 RFID Tags: 840 RFID tags are allocated directly to producers who have a national premises ID. The tags are associated to the national premises ID number in the AIN Management System. Additionally, if the tag is used as official ID for official disease work, the tag number is entered in CoreOne along with the national premises ID.

Animals moved across state lines that have an 840 tag in place are traceable back to Montana. The animals can be traced in one of several ways:

- 1) The AIN Management System can be queried to locate the premises of origin or the point of first tagging.
- 2) CoreOne can be queried. Results would include all official disease work, if any that was performed in Montana using the 840 RFID tag number as official ID.

Back Tags: Back tags are applied to cattle at Montana livestock markets. If the back tag is captured on a back-tagging report, an official test chart at market or is collected at the time of slaughter, the data can be used to identify the consignor of the animal to market.

C. Time for MDOL to report to the State/Tribe from which an animal in question has moved interstate:

For MDOL to identify the state the animal originated from prior to import into Montana, query of the animal health computer system (USAHerds) is necessary. The import system can be queried based upon date, species, and consignee. Once a list of imports are identified that meet the criteria of the query, CVIs must be searched in an attempt to identify the movement of the animal in question. Currently CVIs are stored in a paper format in the office. With adoption of the new animal health computer system, MDOL will eventually scan all CVI's and associate them with the generated import permit to allow electronic viewing of documents. MDOL expects to report to the State/Tribe from which an animal moved within 5 business days 50% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified following the final publication of the federal traceability framework.

D. Time for MDOL to provide the location and contact information from which the animal was moved interstate:

Traceback to the birth premises, the point of first tagging within Montana, or the location from which an animal was exported from Montana should be achievable within 2 weeks 50% of the time for those animals required to be officially identified. This is accomplished by:

- CoreOne can be queried to see if the animal has been involved in official disease work and reported to MDOL and USDA APHIS VS. CoreOne will provide information about the activity, date, and producer or ranch for whom the work was performed.
- If the animal in question has an 840 tag, the AINMS can be queried. The AINMS will provide a tag history that will include point of first tagging and any events that have been subsequently reported to the system.
- If the animal in question has an OCV eartag or a metal brite tag, the accredited veterinarian that the tag was initially distributed to can be identified.
- If the animal in question has a back tag, this information can be used to track movement of the animal from a livestock market. Market back tagging records, brand inspections and market clearance forms can be used to identify consignee and consignor of the animal at sale.
- If a brand is present on the animal in question, the brand and location of the brand can be used to locate the person to whom the brand is registered.

All of this traceability data can be used to locate the CVI issued for the interstate movement of the animal in question and to identify the location in Montana from which the animal was exported.

4.3 Data requirement:

- Montana issues two forms of location identifiers: federal premises identification numbers (PIN) and state location identifiers (LID). Using our state based animal health computer system USAHerds, MDOL is able to assign both formats. MDOL defers to the use of LIDs unless a requesting producer specifically requests a PIN.
- Official animal identification in Montana will include the use of 840 identification devices (RFID and visual); USDA OCV eartags, and USDA metal brite tags. The most recent communication with tribes in Montana suggests that all tribes will adopt similar identification standards. OCV eartags are distributed to accredited veterinarians and then reported back to MDOL and USDA APHIS VS through certificates of vaccination. 840 RFID tags will be allocated directly to registered premises either through official disease work performed by MDOL or USDA APHIS VS, through third party PVPs performing age and source verification, or directly to the registered premises from the manufacturer. All tag data will be available in the AINMS. USDA metal bright tags are and will continue to be distributed both to accredited veterinarians for application during the completion of official disease work and directly to producers for application to animals who will enter interstate commerce. Tag distribution to accredited veterinarians is tracked by USDA APHIS VS. Tag distribution to producers is tracked through allocation to a LID in USAHerds.

- At this time, metal tag distribution to producers is primarily to Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) producers who have increased identification requirements for sexually intact animals leaving the DSA. A significant number of MT's DSA producers utilize age and source verification programs so to date the demand for metal brite tags has been low. Through a single shipping season in MT, MDOL issued 4000 metal brite tags directly to producers. The development of the distribution of metal brite tags to a subset of MT producers has allowed MDOL to develop a system that will effectively handle larger volumes of tag distribution. At this time, taggers are allocated to producers at no cost. When tag distribution expands beyond MT's DSA, tagger information will be distributed to producers and they will be responsible for acquiring taggers at their own expense.
- MDOL will continue to educate and foster the use of electronic formats of CVIs for interstate movement of animals. MDOL will expect that all participating entities comply with the .XML data standards developed by the USAHA working group.

4.4 Information technology plan:

The primary IT needs of MDOL for the successful completion of the traceability road-map are:

- The linkage of USAHerds with the federal computer systems to allow communication with EMRS2, CoreOne, the AINMS, and the premises allocator; and
- Direct sharing of traceability data between eCVI systems and state animal health programs and between different states animal health programs using the .XML data standards developed by the USAHA working group; and
- Further development of an electronic database of brands movement to maximize the searchability.

4.5 Organizational needs:

- 4.5.1 Outreach - MDOL will continue to dedicate one full-time staff veterinarian to advancing animal disease traceability. The staff veterinarian oversees the use of MIMS PDA by accredited veterinarians in the state, including providing initial training and set-up instructions, providing technical support, and facilitating reporting of test and vaccination data by the accredited veterinarian. Additionally, this veterinarian provides important educational opportunities for accredited veterinarians about the importance of data completeness, accurate and timely reporting, and the value of electronic records. By facilitating the learning process and technical portions of the use of electronic records, the staff veterinarian is able to demonstrate the many benefits of programs such as VSPS, eCVI, mCVI, Excel based test charts and vaccination certificates, GlobalVetLink and GAM while alleviating any concerns. This position will also be responsible for promoting the program, meeting with producer groups, giving hands-on demonstrations, etc. While accredited veterinarians are fundamental to animal disease traceability, if industry does not support and understand our approach, we will meet constant resistance to implementation.
- 4.5.2 Livestock markets - MDOL market personnel have been granted access to USAHerds so that personnel can easily look up information on animals at check-in to ensure compliance with animal health laws. Additionally, the successful

implementation of the brands market system, including animal health flags, allows better enforcement and traceability of animals as they move through Montana markets.

- 4.5.3 Industry as a whole - MDOL will continue as needed interaction with a state animal disease traceability working group consisting of members from the livestock industry, including commodity groups and industries associations.

Mission/Vision Statement: To assist MDOL with the progression of the state's animal disease traceability framework and the dispersion of information to livestock producers. Specifically, the working group will provide feedback and input about Montana's animal traceability program. The animal disease traceability working group will be comprised of a broad and diverse representation of Montana's livestock industry so that committee members and the groups they represent will have some ownership in how the traceability is attained.

Representatives from the following industry associations would be asked to participate:

- Montana Beef Council
- Montana Beef Network
- Montana Beef Quality Assurance Council
- Montana Cattleman's Association
- Montana Dairy Association
- Montana Farm Bureau Federation
- Montana Farmers Union
- Montana Livestock Marketing Association
- Montana Pork Producers Council
- Montana R-CALF
- Montana Stockgrowers Association
- Montana Veterinary Medical Association
- Montana Wool Growers Association
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Board of Livestock
- USDA-APHIS AVIC VS

Frequency of meetings: The committee would hold its first meeting in May, and subsequently meet up to three times annually (once live, twice via conference call) as needed for pending changes to our state traceability system. Issue-oriented committee meetings can be held on an as-needed basis if more than half of the voting members are represented.

4.6 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity: Animal disease traceability information is captured on test charts, vaccination certificates, health certificates, MDOL import permits, brand inspections, market clearance sheets, and at the time of distribution of official identification. Historically, this data was stored in a paper based format that was labor intensive, time consuming and only available during regular business hours. Previously, the MDOL import permit system captured information from test charts and ICVI's prior to issuance of an import permit and provided only a limited capability to query traceability data. In January of 2011 MDOL adopted a new animal health computer system (USAHerds) that allows the input and capture of a significantly larger amount of traceability data in a format that allows easy query. Test data, vaccination information, official identification, and CVI data can be entered into the system and accompanying documents can be scanned and associated with import permit information. Additionally, the new animal health computer system stores premises information for MDOL. Additionally, USAHerds is a web based system that can be queried 24/7, can generate associated documents, and that allows the export of data in formats that can be easily transmitted to other States/Tribes/Territories.

All livestock movements into Montana require a CVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry and an import permit, unless going directly to a federally inspected slaughter plant or livestock market. Many of these animals are also additionally required to have individual identification. Consignee, consignor, origin, destination, test information, vaccination status, and ID if required is captured in the animal health computer system at the time of issuance of the import permit providing a searchable electronic database. Paper records that are submitted to the office are correlated to import permits and the supporting documents are scanned and saved in the animal health computer system.

Official disease test charts and vaccination certificates are entered into CoreOne and are also stored in paper format. CoreOne while searchable has limitations on search parameters and can only be accessed by USDA-APHIS-VS personnel.

V. TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement:

1. Increase access of accredited veterinarians to modalities of electronic reporting of program disease work and certificates of veterinary inspection.
2. Increased utilization of electronic records to capture brands movement data.
3. Increase the number of official identification tags distributed in Montana
4. Interaction with accredited veterinarians, livestock markets, and the livestock industry.
5. Cooperation with USDA-APHIS-VS to ensure compatibility of federal databases with those used by state animal health officials.
6. Quarterly newsletter distributed to accredited veterinarians with traceability updates.
7. Increase the number of locations identified by either a PIN or a LID
8. As needed meeting of the Montana Animal Disease Traceability Working Group
9. Annual review and update to the Montana Department of Livestock traceability website.

10. Draft an administrative rule to outline a traceability program in Montana following final publication of the federal traceability rule.