

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR North Dakota

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2019

(re-submitted to VS on March 18, 2020)

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal is to improve North Dakota's capability to trace animals that are either infected with or potentially exposed to federal program diseases or emerging diseases and to help identify animals in major natural disaster related situations (floods, blizzards, fires, etc). The most efficient means to accomplish this goal is to identify those systems that are currently in place that can be improved upon or changed, with minimal financial impact to livestock producers and stakeholders. The need for change must be understood, shared and supported by all stakeholders in order to be successful in our long-term traceability efforts. Relatively successful, federal eradication programs have had the unintended consequence of decreasing the amount of testing and tagging requirements for animals that move interstate and intrastate. When states are declared 'Free' of some of the formerly longstanding endemic diseases such as tuberculosis or brucellosis, trading partner states and producers no longer see the need to monitor the health of those animals as closely. They rely much more on slaughter surveillance to help identify disease occurrences versus live animal testing. The benefit to the industry is that live animals can be handled less and moved more easily at much less expense to the buyers and the sellers.

As the livestock industries have become more disease free, they also improved the ability to more easily move their commodities into international and global markets. Trade agreements the US enters into, allows live animals and associated commodities to be imported into the United States. People, animals and products will continue to move in and out of the US at increasing rates, which makes the introduction of foreign animal diseases (intentionally or unintentionally) more plausible.

Our current, in office, disease tracing capabilities are focused around the interstate and international certificates of veterinary inspection (ICVIs). The incoming ICVIs sent by other state animal health officials are sorted and information from each CVI is entered into an electronic spreadsheet. Currently, the CVIs are filed chronologically and according to the sending state. Outgoing CVIs are also filed according to the state of destination and the date sent. Disease testing for sale or interstate or international movement purposes also serves as a method of identifying the location of animals during future disease investigations. The goal is to switch from a paper or excel database system to a searchable electronic database system that incorporates CVIs, disease testing, and improve emergency response with a commercial off-the-shelf software. The primary benefit of an electronic system will be quicker traceability, to help with disease 'prevention' and 'eradication' efforts.

Our goal is to increase the amount of data we receive which can be entered into a searchable database. Since technologic capabilities will increase in the field we also need to also be able to receive information efficiently into a compatible software program. We plan to internalize data inputting to our own full or part time staff that

have developed expertise over time from issuing permit numbers and reviewing health certificates for accredited veterinarians.

The North Dakota State Board of Animal Health has consistently been a strong advocate of disease prevention. They put into policy and rule actions needed to improve the traceability of animals for the sake of maintaining a healthy herd in the state. The Board's jurisdiction stops at the borders, but they have led by example when identification was needed for the sake of preventing disease risks associated with interstate and international movements. They understand the need to be able to quickly trace animals.

Our state system continues to be available for use by the tribes in ND. The major livestock markets are within the states so it would make sense for the tribes to work with the states and treat animal movements on and off the reservations just as they would interstate movements. We will offer entering MOUs as a possible solution to help avoid the need or the expense, for tribes to develop another separate data base.

- What is the fundamental problem(s) this plan addresses?
- What are the key elements in summary form?
- What are the primary benefits?
- How does this plan build upon previous efforts to advance animal disease traceability?
- How does this plan fit within USDA's new framework for animal disease traceability?
- How does this plan support animal health information systems within the State/Tribe/Territory?
- How does this plan support animal health information needs with other States/Tribes/Territories and USDA nationally?
- What alternatives were explored?
- What are the projected costs for FY2016, FY2017, and FY2018, and benefits?]
See the attached projected budget from the ADT CA

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

Although various State/Tribe/Territory governmental agencies are tasked with animal disease traceability efforts, identifying the specific agencies/units involved in implementing this road map is essential to planning success. This also includes identifying constituents that advancing the proposed plan will impact and/or require collaboration.

- Who are the primary constituents? Animal Health Division of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the ND Board of Animal Health (BOAH)

- Who are the external constituents? The BOAH is comprised of a representative from the purebred beef industry, the commercial cattle industry, the dairy industry, the sheep industry, the swine industry, the bison industry, the nontraditional livestock industry and two private veterinary practitioners. They are charged with representing their constituents, producers and associated industry groups.
- What does statewide, tribal-wide, territory-wide mean? It means different geographic locations and different authorities. Would be better to also look at markets used and what jurisdictions they are under.
- How are traceability data used internally, externally? Traceability data such as ICVIs and test information are used when it has been determined that there has been a disease outbreak which could drastically impact the health of animals and/or people, and it is necessary to identify and address risk of animals that are either infected or potentially exposed to the disease. During a natural disaster, the ability to identify animals has also been proven to be critical.
- What values guide the animal disease traceability system? The main value that underlies our states animal disease traceability system is the producers' trust that data is held in confidence and is to only be used for animal health purposes. Other values would include cost effective, efficient and user friendly for veterinarians, producers and our Animal Health Division staff.
- What is the make-up of the animal disease traceability advisory group? The advisory group includes representatives from all of the various livestock industry groups in our state, representation from the Board of Animal Health, the Chief Brand Inspector, and the veterinarians from the state veterinarian's office. How and how often are they engaged? They meet 1 to 2 times a year or as needed. The BOAH meets quarterly and is kept informed of ongoing investigations.

2.2 Where are we now?

- ICVIs are manually reviewed and entered into an excel spreadsheet.
- Paper copies of all incoming and outgoing CVIs are retained for 10 years in boxes in a vault.
- Electronic CVIs are printed and manually entered into a excel spreadsheet.
- Search capabilities are limited to CVI numbers, consignor, consignee, number of head, and species.
- Accredited veterinarians send in written ICVIs and the state forwards a copy to the correct states or federal offices.
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- During the week, during business hours, someone is always available to answer questions. After hours and on weekends 24/7 there are 3 veterinarians who respond to questions and provide permit numbers for CVIs to North Dakota.

[In assessing the existing situation, this section is intended to link inventory of existing infrastructure with a broader range of considerations.

- How is animal disease traceability currently defined? Currently it is defined as the ability to identify an animal in a manner that leaves no room for doubt or legal challenge that the animal(s) in question is the animal being looked for. Is it viewed as a cross-cutting component to animal health information systems? Yes, in ND animal disease traceability involves all information available to identify and verify animals. Is it viewed as a stand-alone initiative? No, we work with the brand inspection program also in ND to help identify animals and monitor movements.
- What measures of traceability capability are currently being used? We have been keeping track of the amount of time it takes for us to search for and find animals that other states may be looking for or that our brand inspectors need more information on during their investigations as well. What are the specific values and associated interpretation? The value is the amount of time and the success in finding the animal and from those parameters we can surmise how successful we may be in an emergency situation where tracking animals in a short amount of time is going to be critical to the success of preventing a disease outbreak or quickly controlling an outbreak already in progress.
- How is coordination being currently achieved within the unit? It is unclear of what 'unit' is being asked about or how it is defined.
- How is coordination being currently achieved state-wide, tribal-wide, territory-wide? The AD's office in South Dakota, has served as the conduit for coordinating animal health efforts between the state, the tribes and the federal governments.
- How does the present unit coordinate activities with other existing agencies/units? We utilize the use of e-mail, scanning and faxing capabilities and the EMRS2 system to share information with our AD's office in SD.
- What standards for traceability are currently being used? We strive for 100% traceability of breeding animals that enter ND and also for feeder animals that come from high risk areas or states, in the shortest amount of time possible. Are they appropriate? From an epidemiological standpoint, absolutely, but from a practical and politically popular standpoint, not at this time. Major disease outbreaks usually decrease the lack of support.

- What is the state of technology infrastructure? We are currently limited to the use of an Excel spreadsheet for capturing the ICVI data. The federal office and our office have also successfully utilized the Mobile Information Management system (MIMs) when TB testing herds involved in trace investigations. Capability in terms of size? Excel databases are somewhat size limited and electronic CVIs have to be manually entered. Compatibility within and outside the agency/unit/department/etc. for sharing data when needed? Fortunately, private veterinarians also are using Excel spreadsheets to capture data while they are working animals in the field. Practitioners are not yet familiar with, nor proficient in the use of the MIMs system yet.
- Are requests for information available 24/7, or only available M-F, 40 hours per week, if authorized personnel are present? 24/7- ITD support can be a limiting factor.
- What is the impact of state, tribe, or territory funding on capability? Funding is critical if we are to progress to a database that supports traceability for an animal by capturing animal IDs and movement information. How does Federal funding fit into the plan? Federal requirements will dictate what the funding needs will be in most states. States that are not financially able to meet the federal requirements will become the weak links in traceability throughout the nation, if they are not provided federal assistance to meet federal requirements. Latitude will be needed in future cooperative agreements since some states will need equipment some will need staff and some will need both. Traceability needs to be a national and unified effort with their state counterparts and ‘most’ importantly with the support of the livestock industry, in order to be successful.]

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

[Strengths are intended to describe circumstances or positions that allow an organization to take advantage of opportunities. Weaknesses, in contrast, are issues or threats that make an organization less able to exploit opportunities.

- What are the strengths of the organization in terms of technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.? The Board of Animal Health is made up of producers and veterinarians and allows for good communication which fosters understanding and support for requirements which improve traceability of animals entering North Dakota.
- What are the weaknesses in terms of “lack of” technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?) The Animal Health Division must use the required state’s procurement process and there are multiple people that must approve of purchases and actions so the process is robust, but inherently slow.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

[The basis for this component is the assumption that improving animal disease traceability capability will create opportunities for those involved that would not be available should traceability not be optimized. At the administrative level, implementation of standards for improving efficiencies of information collection, storage, sharing, and security would be an opportunity. Every State/Tribe/Territory is subject to catastrophic events, such as tornados, wildfires, drought, winter storms, animal/zoonotic disease, flooding, possibly hurricanes. Does this plan create an opportunity in ability to respond? Yes

- Does this plan enable or avoid consequences of potential threats? Confidentiality of data collected is critical in order to avoid potential misuse of data and maintain the trust of those we regulate.
- Does this plan provide for better use of available resources than current approaches? Yes, putting ICVIs into a more searchable database will definitely make them more valuable when animals need to be traced.
- Does this plan enhance networking opportunities? Yes, other states are currently using off-the-shelf software databases and encouraging the use of electronic CVIs. The focus of the software is to enable knowledgeable official to evaluate data from multiple sources, synthesize it, and apply it to animal disease surveillance.
- If this plan is not implemented, what are the threats? The threat is that as trade increases and our risk for disease introduction increases, we do not have an adequate disease traceability system in place. We learned that after the BSE finding in Canada, we've documented how slow our average TB investigation takes and FMD exercises have pointed out our weaknesses over and over again.
- If this plan is not implemented, will others be tasked with doing so? The ND statute directs the animal health official to protect the health of livestock in the state. If traceability is done for animal health purposes that is where the task will remain.
- Have previous efforts to coordinate with other entities within the applicant's boundaries, and outside the applicant's boundaries, been complicated or unavailable for not having this plan in place? Yes, especially when a trace requires us to search through old paper health certificates and multiple fields on the health certificates have to be searched that the certificates are not filed by.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

[This section is intended to provide a more detailed and technical assessment of existing infrastructure than the "Who we are" section. An outcome of this section is to support the requirements analysis for funding prioritization and justification.

- Human resources- 3 veterinarians, 3 support staff and 1 field investigator

- Space availability- limited in the state office for additional equipment and limited space at most of the auction markets
- Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field-limited since no budget for additional connectivity between the state office and markets and veterinary clinics. Some rural markets and premises do not have adequate internet access in order to move data electronically
- Access to USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources- this is of concern to the state, due to the need for user names and password that expire and also due to the lack of 24/7 service by federal support staff that routinely support the federal databases locally and nationally.
- Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information- Currently all CVIs are stored chronologically in a vault. Key information, such as the HC number, the date and consignor and consignee info is entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.
- Automated data capture capability- Can accept Excel but can't dump into an electronic database at this time.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

- 3.1 Vision Statement- Our vision is directed by responsibilities dictated to us through NDCC Chapter 36.

[Administratively, animal disease traceability is one component part of an overarching State, Tribe, or Territory animal health or livestock agriculture regulatory role. The intent for this section is to provide the existing vision statement of the administrative department/agency/unit within which efforts to advance animal disease traceability are to be conducted. This should merely be a copy and paste effort from the context of an organizational chart or plan of the administrative authority or structure within which animal disease traceability efforts exist.]

- 3.2 Mission Statement- see above

[Administratively, animal disease traceability is one component part of an overarching State, Tribe, or Territory animal health or livestock agriculture regulatory role. The intent for this section is to provide the existing mission statement of the administrative department/agency/unit within which efforts to advance animal disease traceability are to be conducted. This should merely be a copy and paste effort from the context of an organizational chart or plan of the administrative authority or structure within which animal disease traceability efforts exist.]

The North Dakota Board of Animal Health is statutorily charged (NDCC 36-01-08) to protect the health of the domestic animals and nontraditional Livestock of this state, and shall determine and employ the most efficient

and practical means for the prevention, suppression, control, and eradication of dangerous, contagious and infectious diseases among the domestic animals and nontraditional livestock of this state.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture fosters the long-term well-being of North Dakota by promoting a healthy economic, environmental and social climate for agriculture and the rural community through leadership, advocacy, education, regulation and other services. To carry out its mandate, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture is committed to the following responsibilities:

- Serving as an advocate for family farmers and ranchers and for the rural community.
- Providing services that ensure safe, high-quality and marketable agricultural products.
- Developing and expanding markets for agricultural commodities and value-added products.
- Reducing the risk of financial loss to agricultural producers and to buyers and sellers of agricultural commodities.
- Safeguarding livestock and other domestic animals from communicable diseases.
- Ensuring compliance with laws administered by the Department of Agriculture through understandable regulations, information, education and even-handed enforcement.
- Ensuring human safety and a healthy environment through proper use of pesticides.
- Verifying the contents of pesticides, fertilizers, soil conditioners, animal feeds and veterinary medicines.
- Reducing agricultural losses from noxious weeds, predatory animals, insects and diseases.
- Gathering and disseminating information concerning agriculture to the general public.
- Providing fair and timely dispute resolution services to agricultural producers, creditors and others.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

[Inherent in applying and accepting Federal funding for advancing animal disease traceability is accepting the overarching strategic goal as being to develop and implement a State-wide, Tribal-wide, Territory-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State, Tribe, Territory and USDA standards. States are leading the way on traceability actions.

- If other goals exist that are important and relevant, they should be added.] Traceability for animal health is one of our goals but it could also be useful for natural disaster situations such as flood, blizzard and tornadoes.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

[These are intended to prioritize the specifics of what needs to be accomplished to support the strategic goal(s). They are best created following an accurate portrayal of “where we are now” (Section 2.2). This is a three-year plan and, as a result, the programmatic goals should reflect short- and mid-term planning. Programmatic goals or objectives should be challenging, but feasible as aligned with realistic resource availability and stated priorities. Objectives should be prioritized and presented for each of the three years projected by this Road Map, and similarly aligned within the budget proposed. Examples might include:

- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms such as ICVIs. Our outreach has been and will continue to be to the Animal ID working group, industry groups, field investigators, and the Board of Animal Health members.
- Monitor ICVI data quality- which is done now but will improve once all data fields are keyed into a searchable database.
- Input data into appropriate systems- our goal is to switch from a paper or excel database system to a searchable electronic database system.
- Improve retrieval of available traceability information-will drastically improve traceability if all fields are keyed in and indexed.
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States/Tribes/Territories and USDA when needed- The national Assembly of State Animal Health Officials are leading the effort in this area.
- Integrate surveillance and traceability data- We will keep pursuing the dumping of all ICVIs and test results into the state’s ATD.
- Establish advisory committee – ND brought together all of the industry and regulatory stake holders and formed an Animal Identification Working Group several years ago. We have benefited greatly from their input and hopefully they have a good understand of why we need to continue to improve our traceability.
- Establish authority-The state veterinarian, who is to carry out the orders and policies of the Board of Animal Health, works with the

Brand inspectors to assure that animals are not imported without meeting our import requirements. Animals that move out of state without an ICVI are reported to the destination state's animal health official.

- Develop policy- the ND State Board of Animal Health helps to develop policies that the state veterinarian and associated staff are to carry out. The Animal Identification Working Group has also provided guidance on what policies are feasible and that the industries will support.
- Enhance IT infrastructure-enhancement of the IT infrastructure at the state level will require funds and staff time. The cooperative agreements need to financially help support those needs as we need to keep updating our IT systems to be more compatible with other state and federal systems.
- Establish and/or update tag distribution record system – we currently receive AIN number information. The Brucellosis tags are currently recorded into the federal system by our office staff. The USDA brite tags are recorded in our office but we rely on the veterinarians that request them to be able to provide us information on the cattle that they're placed in.]

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures (required)

[This section should specify the animal disease traceability performance measures used for documenting progress and accountability. Contained within the FY2011 Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement announcement, the four performance measures recommended by the Traceability Regulations Working Group are listed. It is to the cooperator's advantage to use these four measures of traceability capability as future cooperative agreement applications will be based upon these four measures. As part of the new framework, establishing baselines for these uniform performance measures is critical to document progress made through the new approach and critical for obtaining Federal funds in the future.

- How has performance been measured to date? Since our overarching goal is to prevent disease introduction and disease spread, we have been monitoring the speed at which we can trace animals and strive for 100% traceability.
- What is the current baseline? Baselines have not yet been established but we know that we are certainly not where we hope to be within the next 3 years. If animals at slaughter are not adequately identified and if the identification is not collected, there will continue to be many animals that will remain untraceable and a producer affidavit stating that they think they sold a certain animal for slaughter will still be the best we can hope for and that is not adequate traceability.
- Measures should be offered as performance per unit of time –we will measure the time it takes to find the ID for one animal on a CVI and to verify the current location or disposition of the animal.

- If the four recommended performance measures are not used, when will they be used?] The performance measures have always been used between state animal health officials and we documented our trace activities and capabilities. We document trace activities so that we can document our improvements and improve our areas of weaknesses.

4.4 Data requirements

[This section should reflect a thorough examination of how animal disease traceability data are acquired; monitored for quality; organized; stored; secured; retrieved; used for surveillance; and shared when required. This section would also contain a listing of needs for the near term and possibly mid-term future. Since valuable traceability data are being, and will likely continue to be, collected and provided via paper formats, even if the intent is to diminish its use, this section should include a discussion relative to how paper and electronic animal health information systems are intended for use and integration in developing animal disease traceability information.

CVIs sent in by our accredited veterinarians and from other states and provinces, along with disease test charts, tags issued for identification purposes, Scrapie tags and Official Calhhood Vaccination information are the backbone of our current traceability system. The goal is to gather that information into a more user-friendly electronic system, beginning with the field veterinarians who we need to support with equipment and programs and hands on training so they become confident in using newer systems.

- Fully describe standards to be used for location identification, if used-

Location Identification will continue to use the 911 address system. Producers will clearly be told that the number is just a location identification number and it will stay with the geographical location if they sell or move from the property.

- Fully describe standards to be used for official animal identification, including arrangements with other States, Tribes, Territories, as well as official identification methods/devices used within the cooperator's jurisdiction- North Dakota requires official identification on all sexually intact animals that enter ND. OCV tags, USDA NEUS tags, and RFID tags are all recognized as official identification.
- Will the State/Tribe/Territory be using official metal ear tags beyond the current system involving accredited veterinarians only applying the tags at the time of performing regulatory animal disease work? We are considering allowing veterinarians to order tags to be dropped shipped directly to their clients. What formats? What volume is expected for use? There may be no change in volume unless other states start asking for more identification on

animals imported into their states. We will not be requiring more identification at this time for animals moving intrastate at this time. How will they be distributed? Through veterinarians for the foreseeable future due to record keeping needs. This may change though in the future. What is the plan for distributing taggers? They could be dispersed through the state and federal offices. Veterinarians could pick them up as needed. VS Memo 578.12 is to be used for reference guidelines. (required to be addressed within the Road Map [option to distribute NUES tags direct to producer is determined by State or Tribe) This may create more record keep problems and have a negative impact on traceability.

- What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used? (required to be addressed within the Road Map) Currently, it is recorded on paper, but our goal is to move to an electronic database that will record in electronically.
- What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements? ND does not have any currently approved of commuter herds.
- What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to ICVIs? ICVIs are the only forms currently recognized unless animals are moving on a VS 127 for a direct to slaughter movement. Owner shipper statement is allowed for movement to an auction market.

How and when will data be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA? (required to be addressed within the Road Map) When requested for animal health purposed by another animal health official or disaster is declared by the Secretary of Agriculture. How will group/lot official numbers be handled within the system? It is feasible that a group lot number for pigs, or for a group of cattle, that are not to be commingled, could be entered into new database.

4.5 Information technology plan

We need to be able to receive data from veterinarians in the manner that they want to send it. Things will progress much more quickly if we are responsive to receiving common database information such as from Excel spreadsheets via e-mail attachments. Our system needs to be secure and redundant (backed up) with limited access by animal health officials and support staff.

Resource requirements

[This section is intended to describe additional resources needed to implement the road map.

- Is specific expertise needed that is not currently available? Yes, we need IT support that clearly understands animal health traceability needs and the type of data sources that we have to capture.
- Will consultants be needed? Technicians and data inputting support will be needed. We need more doers and less consultants to move us forward.

- Is a continuity of operation plan (COOP) in place and how frequently is it tested? Yes, and it is utilized and tested frequently.
- Are automated data capture resources needed? Yes, wands, PDAs, scanner, tablets, and computers will be needed.
- Will additional or new space be required? Space may be needed for a scanner and a temporary or fulltime person to help with data inputting.]

4.7 Organizational needs

[This section is intended to identify any organizational transformation that might be needed to implement the road map.

- Does a need for organizational change exist? No
- Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure? Long term additional resources will require legislative support.

4.7.1 Executive support

[This section is intended to describe how current administrative authorities view the importance of a sound animal disease traceability system to the well-being of the livestock and poultry industries affected. Although not a joke at all, state animal health officials often joke that staff and funding support only increase after there is a major disease outbreak or incursion.

- Is additional support from executive management needed? That depends on how ‘support’ is defined.
- How is accountability provided? Multiple people have access and can cross check each other’s work.

How are officials briefed on progress and baseline measures of performance?] Disease prevention and quick mitigations should be the best performance measures.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

[This section is intended to describe who is responsible for advancing animal disease traceability and how an integrated plan is presented, monitored, and accounted for within the socio-political environment.

- What is the make-up of the applicant’s animal disease traceability advisory group? How frequently are they engaged? The makeup and meeting frequency was addressed earlier in the application.
- How are emergency preparedness resources engaged or responded to when necessary? This question isn’t clear, but our EM resources include emergency equipment and a Reserve Veterinary Corps. They are utilized as needed.
- How is compatibility with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA monitored? Actual investigations, trace

exercises, discussions, surveys, e-mails, and conference calls.

- How are responsibilities assigned for implementing the plan? Since our animal health staff is relatively small, we firmly believe in cross training so duties can be assigned as needed. Primary duties are often overseen by one staff member, but others must be able to assume those duties in their absence.
- How are disputes arbitrated? What types of disputes are being referred to? If animal identification is being challenged, we have resorted to DNA testing of tissue to confirm that the ID device does indeed belong to the animal in question.
- How is feedback obtained relative to perception of successful implementation above and below the administrative authority? It is asked for from some and offered by others. Constructive criticism is welcomed!
- How is transition achieved when administrators are replaced? More than one support staff member is capable of carrying out each duty. Since the support staff is responsible for technical aspects of the databases, when administration changes it should have little to no impact on the integrity of the day to day activities within our Division.

4.7.3 Policy- The ND Board of Animal Health Policies are influenced by the following regulations in the North Dakota Century Code and the ND Administrative Code.

36-01-08. Duties - Rules - Fees - Continuing appropriation.

The board shall protect the health of the domestic animals and nontraditional livestock of this state, shall determine and employ the most efficient and practical means for the prevention, suppression, control, and eradication of dangerous, contagious, and infectious diseases among the domestic animals and nontraditional livestock of this state and shall prevent the escape and release of an animal injurious to or competitive with agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wild animals, and other natural resource interests. For the purpose of preventing the escape and release of an animal injurious to or competitive with agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wild animals, and other natural resource interests, the board may, by rule, quarantine any such animal, cause any such animal to be killed, regulate or prohibit the arrival in or departure from this state of any such animal, and at the cost of the owner thereof, the board may detain any animal found to be in violation of any rule or prohibition. Any matter relating to the health and welfare of domestic animals and nontraditional livestock and not specifically assigned by statute to another entity is deemed to be within the authority of the board. The board may make rules to carry into effect the purposes of this chapter and other duties prescribed in this title. The commissioner shall collect fees for the actual direct cost of providing each brucellosis tag, each identification tag, and each health book the commissioner distributes. The fees collected by the commissioner must be deposited in the

agriculture commissioner's operating fund and are appropriated on a continuing basis to the state board of animal health to be used to enforce this chapter

36-14-04.1. Animals imported into state to have certificate of veterinary inspection - Exception.

1. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter or by rule, all domestic animals and nontraditional livestock brought into this state must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection certifying that the animals are free from symptoms of all contagious and infectious diseases, and that the animals meet disease testing and vaccination requirements prescribed by rule. Animals originating in other countries must be tested for diseases, as determined by the board, until a risk assessment is completed for the disease. If the board determines that an unacceptable risk exists, the board may deny entry, require additional testing, or require a vaccination.

2. The requirement for a certificate of veterinary inspection is waived for cattle, sheep, bison, and swine originating directly from a producer's premises and not diverted enroute, if the waiver is approved by the state veterinarian and the cattle, sheep, bison, or swine are delivered for sale directly to a licensed auction market or other premises approved by the state veterinarian.

3. The board may require certification indicating that animals entering this state from a foreign country and intended for human consumption have not been treated with drugs that are disallowed under federal law for use in animals intended for human consumption. The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

48-02-01-01. Importation - All livestock - Certificate of veterinary inspection required - Exemptions.

Except as otherwise provided in this section or chapter, all imported domestic animals must be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection. But domestic animals originating directly from a producer's premises, not diverted while in route, and consigned to an auction market, or stockyard approved by the board; and livestock consigned to a state or federally inspected slaughtering establishment are exempt from the requirement. Prior to importation, the board may grant exceptions to the certificate of veterinary inspection requirement, if in the opinion of the board, the animals are free of contagious and infectious diseases. In addition to the disease testing, treatment, vaccination, or identification requirements of this chapter, the state veterinarian may require additional disease testing, treatment, vaccination, or identification if the state veterinarian has reason to believe that other health risks are present.

48-02-01-03.6. Identification. All cattle entering North Dakota must be officially identified by a method approved by the state veterinarian.

a. All cattle from foreign countries must be permanently officially identified with either a hot iron brand approved by the state veterinarian or an electronic identification compatible with the federal animal identification plan.

b. This official identification may not be removed or altered.

[This section is intended to explain:

- How do existing mandates assist, limit, or modify what is intended to be achieved? Lack of enforcement of the ADT rule by USDA.
- Is there a need to address any specific mandates and act to modify them to align them with current goals and objectives? There is concern that it will not offer adequate framework to interstate traceability needs. USDA-APHIS-VS needs to provide leadership on the epidemiologic needs of the states, for the good of the livestock industries.

4.7.4 Staffing

[Questions such as the following may be addressed:

- How is full-time, paid support staff justified? They have multiple duties and we need more than one person capable of proficiently carrying out each duty.
- What qualifications are needed? There are specific PIQs and job descriptions for each of our staff.
- What personnel are needed to implement the plan? Secretarial, administrative and IT staff are all necessary within our state animal health official's office. In the field we need accredited large animal veterinarians and producers that are willing to work with us. The AD's office staff and the AD play a vital support and training role in carrying out our traceability plan.
 - Can other human resources be leveraged to assist in implementing the plan? We have tried to use outside resources, but without experience reading ICVIs it did not prove to be the way to protect the integrity of the data that was being input.
- Are professional credentials and certification an issue? Experience is the most important credential needed when evaluating ICVIs and recording the appropriate information.
- Are job descriptions for the roles needed provided? Yes
- Is animal disease traceability information a distinct function within the unit or an add-on "coordinated by committee" versus an individually coordinated, stand-alone sub-unit? Animal Disease traceability is at the core of daily duties as health certificates are reviewed and some of the data entered into a spread sheet and stored.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

[This section is to include not only amounts by project, but also a description of sources and accountability.

- How are you funded for animal disease traceability? State, Tribe, Territory versus Federal?
- What are the funding requirements projected by year for FY2016, FY2017, and FY2019 for implementing this plan?

The funding requirements achieve our goal of purchasing an off-the-shelf robust database will require \$65,000 the first year and \$25,000 for maintenance the following years.

- How is cost sharing achieved? We do not have any funding specific to animal disease traceability other than what is appropriated to us through the federal government.
- How can the applicant insulate against budget cuts and shortfalls? We hope to be able to be able to handle the data inputting with our current staff once a system is in place. We may enlist the help of additional temporary support personnel in order to help input some of the past years' information.
- Can other funding sources be leveraged to support this plan?]

4.7.6 Outreach (required to be addressed within the Road Map)

[Successful implementation of any plan to advance animal disease traceability cannot be achieved without outreach to constituents primarily affected by the plan. We have reached out to the industry groups and will continue to, but we are losing credibility along with our federal counterparts since the dates, the targets and the plans keep changing.

4.7.6.1. Accredited veterinarians

[Accredited veterinarians are instrumental to the new framework focusing on interstate movement of livestock and poultry.

- What is the plan for informing accredited veterinarians of the new framework and the specific three-year plan for implementation?

When we have a clear plan federally and then at the state level, we will provide information at meetings, through mailings, our website, e-mails and clinic visits.

- What continuing education is being planned for improving data quality relative to animal health information systems being used? We notify veterinarians by mail when ICVIs are not properly filled out.

Submitting official forms in a timely manner? Again, they are notified by letter but on occasion a visit is needed and as a last resort they may have their accreditation suspended or removed.

- What is the plan for enhancing the use of eICVIs, if any? We encourage veterinarians to use eICVIs including GVL and VSPS and any other approved electronic format that we can accept at the state office. We also have information about eICVIs on our website and provide RFID tags.

- What role, if any, does the accredited veterinarian have in providing low-cost, official identification tags/devices to producers?] The accredited veterinarians order NEUS and RFID tags now and record the identification on CVIs. If NEUS tags are going to be used more for identification purposes, the veterinarians may play a critical role in helping to record who the tags were issued to.

4.7.6.2. Livestock markets

[Because of frequent commingling of livestock, and sometimes poultry, at livestock markets, increased biosecurity risks are incurred and, as a result, the importance of access to traceability information when needed is important.

- What continuing education efforts are being planned for addressing the concerns of the livestock markets in the jurisdiction? On site visits by state and federal animal health officials to help them learn to utilize equipment and software programs that will make uploading identification information to the state office possible.
- What is the plan for accessing or requesting traceability information from livestock markets?] We plan to provide the market veterinarians with wands, PDAs and computers so they can more quickly capture identification information and provide it to our office. The Animal Health Division has a field inspector who visits markets to convey information and make sure that import requirements are being met. The AD has an Animal Identification Coordinator who is also very familiar to our market personnel and capable of conveying the need for accurate identification information.

4.7.6.3. Industry as a whole

[Implementation of any plan to advance animal disease traceability impacts a variety of constituents, likely none more so than industry itself.

- How is industry being informed of the implementation plan? The plan will be conveyed by the state veterinarian's office through information provided to the Board of Animal Health, through producer group meetings, through PSAs and media outlets, through the accredited veterinarians and the AVIC's VMOs and Animal Identification Coordinator and also through our Field Investigator.
- How is the advisory committee being leveraged for this continuing education purpose? The advisory committee is well aware of our traceability scenarios and they help convey the need for full traceability to their colleagues and other producers.
- What other resources are available for industry outreach? Word of mouth from one producer to another. social media outlets may be used by the NDDA in the future to assist us with getting animal health related messages out to the general public.
- What constitutes industry? Anyone involved in livestock production is part of the industry we are charged to keep free from disease. What species are involved? Cattle, swine, sheep, goats, bison and farmed cervids are the main species that make up the industries we oversee animal health programs for.
- How are under-represented and under-served communities being included in the outreach plan?] Our messages are carried by numerous media outlets. Private practitioners and extension agents also have a vital role in providing information and listening to feedback from underserved areas.

4.8. Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity (required [to be reported through cooperative agreements])

[The new traceability framework is focused on interstate movement and the accompanying ICVI or similar documentation for that movement.

- How will the number of animals and the number of shipments be monitored that move interstate? Our current importation permit system will allow us to quickly provide estimated summary

information on the number of shipments we receive and the number of animals in those shipments. Feeder steers from Free states are not required to have a permit number on their health certificate, but we receive the HCs within 30 days and then can manually add up and account for those shipments as well.

- How will the data be verified or validated? Our field inspector is tasked with spot checking animals that enter North Dakota to assure the Board that imported animals meet their import requirements. We also share information back and forth with the brand inspectors since it may be that someone has sought a brand release before moving animals, but they failed to acquire a CVI for the movement.

What we appreciate most is when other producers report that someone seems to be moving cattle without meeting import requirements. That tells us that producers support sound regulations that protect the health of everyone's livestock in ND.

- The following data will be reported to the best of our current capability for quarterly reports beginning with calendar year 2012:
 - 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... (*such as steers in ND, since all sexually intact cattle coming into ND must be individually officially identified.*)
 - Volume of distribution for each official numbering system/device issued by the State/Tribe/Territory and/or AD office, including backtags by market or processing (slaughter) facility

Since we have not captured all of the above information in the past, nor have we been required to ever provide exact numerical information, we cannot promise that all of the information asked for in the above list can be provided. That is part of the overarching goal of our 3 year traceability plan. Because of our importation permit requirement, we know that our state has the ability to provide most of the above information. Since tribes are not being directed to work only

with a state veterinarian, we cannot be responsible for tags that they may receive from other sources. We do not have the authority to expect that they should report use of official tags to the state of ND. We will work together with the federal office to try and help capture information pertaining to the tribes' use of official identification tags. There is still a delay in the mailing of some ICVIs to the state office that also causes our records to be inaccurate until those CVIs are received.

V. TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

[This section is intended to “divide and conquer” the breadth of elements encompassed in advancing animal disease traceability. This ranking should identify sufficient projects prioritized for funding over the next three years. It will be the basis of comparison for the annualized cooperative agreement work plans. If it is not listed here, more extensive justification will need to be provided within the annual work plan for approval.

- What specific steps are needed to advance from where the initiative currently resides? Clear direction from USDA, through the publication of the proposed rule, was helpful so that state animal health officials and livestock producers clearly understand what is expected. We will continue to proceed at the state level to try to improve the electronic search capabilities of the data we currently receive and store.
- Is a phased-in approach appropriate over the three-year period? Yes unless some unforeseen event or marketing need and funding drives the process to move more quickly.

Are various components dependent upon measureable successes rather than defined time periods?] When it is stated that when a certain percentage of traceability is met, the federal government is going to move to a higher requirement level of traceability.....that really is counterproductive by encouraging noncompliance so that there is no justification to move to a higher level of traceability. If industry does not appreciate nor want traceability for the right reasons, we cannot accomplish traceability. When industry and all stake holders want (or need) traceability for marketability of healthy animals and products, it will seem to happen overnight with no need for discussion. We hope and trust that given correct and accurate information livestock producers will **want** to move forward with improving traceability of animals, versus responding to an animal health or food safety crisis and demanding that state and federal government officials implement a haphazard and

inefficient system to ensure the marketability of animals and animal products.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Please see the attached cooperative agreement application for 2020 and associated objectives. As veterinarians that haven't forgotten epidemiologic principles of prevention of disease movement, our goal is 100% traceability. Our objectives and more importantly our 'actions' to achieve that goal, may change depending upon federal regulations or guidance and available federal and/or state funding for resources needed to accomplish full traceability.