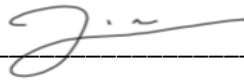


NEW ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR NEW MEXICO

A Three-Year Plan

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **What is the fundamental problem(s) and key elements that this plan addresses?**

This animal disease traceability road map outlines New Mexico's plan for continued development of a record keeping and animal identification system designed to trace affected livestock in the event of a disease outbreak affecting the New Mexico livestock industries. Key elements of the plan involve identifying the individuals and contact information of those responsible for movement of covered species and identifying the premises of origin of individually identified animals. Initial major emphasis will be on the beef and dairy cattle industries, although the National Scrapie Surveillance Program ID will continue to be used to monitor sheep and goat movement. Movement of equines will also be monitored via EIA testing forms, use of ICVIs and entry permit numbers.

In New Mexico, the state brand system will be used as the primary form of identification of persons responsible for livestock movement. In addition, the state's livestock inspection system will provide a means of tracing movement of livestock both across state brand inspection districts (intrastate) and across state lines (interstate). Identification of animals will be based on the 840-coded AIN-system where applicable and the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES).

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) are in place with neighboring states to facilitate movement of animals when accompanied by a Certificate of Brand Inspection or ICVI. New Mexico endorses the use of ICVIs for all livestock crossing state borders. The state will continue to cultivate the excellent working relationship it currently maintains with sovereign nations and neighboring states.

- **What are the primary benefits?**

The New Mexico Traceability Plan will benefit the State's livestock industries by efficiently and accurately identifying affected animals in case of any disease outbreak in this country. The system will allow New Mexico producers to move livestock smoothly across state lines. Livestock movement records will be maintained in a state database.

- **How does this plan build upon previous efforts to advance animal disease traceability?**

New Mexico is a brand state that uses a brand inspection system which is overseen by the New Mexico Livestock Board. This agency is unique in that it houses law enforcement officers, brand inspectors and veterinary services. The team of inspectors continuously patrol and perform inspections around the state to help keep NM livestock free from disease and safe from theft. The Livestock Board includes the office of the State Veterinarian and runs as a separate agency from the Department of Agriculture. These different services collaborate to prevent the introduction and spread of disease.

- **How does this plan fit within USDA’s new framework for animal disease traceability?**
 In the interest of border safety, New Mexico is currently participating in a pilot study involving UHF ear tags to capture individual animal IDs from cattle of Mexican origin crossing through the port. The goal of the pilot study is to trace animals from the point of origin in Mexico to the point of destination in the United States. The electronic information captured at the port will be accompanied by brand inspection documents generated at the port.
- **How does this plan support animal health information systems within the State/Tribe/Territory?**
 The electronic ID pilot study, brand inspections and ICVIs written by NM accredited veterinarians and out-of-state veterinarians are captured and processed in the New Mexico Livestock Board database and can be readily shared with other state and federal agencies if the need arises.
- **How does this plan support animal health information needs with other States/Tribes/Territories and USDA nationally?**
 New Mexico supports the free exchange of open information with its trading partners, neighbors and the federal government. This plan will allow the State to continue to track movement of livestock both within the state and as animals move across state lines.
- **What alternatives were explored?**
 No new alternatives are being explored; however, expansion and implementation of the current methodologies are an integral part of this traceability plan.
- **What are the projected costs for FY2017, FY2018, and FY2019, and benefits?**

 - **FY2017:**
 \$200,000: This cost includes the \$57,000 from the ADT Cooperative Agreement funding from APHIS in addition to costs associated with maintaining IT capabilities, IT personnel and infrastructure in preserving the Animal Disease Traceability system.
 - **FY2018:**
 \$200,000: This cost is the same as for FY2017 and covers maintenance of the previously established program.
 - **FY2019:**
 \$200,000: This cost is the same as the previous years and covers maintenance of the previously established program.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

- **Who are the primary constituents?**

The primary constituents of the plan are the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Livestock Board, its staff of state regulatory veterinarians, the team of full time inspectors and part time deputy inspectors, an animal identification specialist, and the support staff at the New Mexico Livestock Board.

- **Who are the external constituents?**

External constituents consist of individual producers of covered species located throughout the state, the commodity support associations representing the various covered species, the governmental representatives of the tribal groups in New Mexico, the accredited veterinarians serving covered species, the staff at the State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

- **What does statewide, tribal-wide, territory-wide mean?**

Statewide simply means within the state lines of this or other states, excluding the tribal lands of sovereign nations who have not entered into a cooperative relationship with the state concerning regulations pertaining to livestock inspection, movement and documentation.

- **How are traceability data used internally, externally?**

Traceability data is used to enforce the state's regulations concerning livestock movement, to trace disease suspects, to identify possibly exposed herds, and to meet the requirements of states importing animals into New Mexico or exporting animals from New Mexico. Tribal groups typically cooperate with the state by registering brands and complying with the state livestock movement laws. The New Mexico Livestock Board is bound by state statutes to cooperate with all Native American tribes in this respect.

- **What values guide the animal disease traceability system?**

The Livestock Board responds to the needs of the state's livestock industries. Input received from producers and accredited veterinarians is implemented to enhance traceability.

- **What is the make-up of the animal disease traceability advisory group? How and how often are they engaged?**

The New Mexico Animal Identification Stakeholders Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the state livestock commodity associations including the Cattle Growers', Wool Growers, Dairy Producers, the State Veterinary Medical Association, the NM

Cooperative Extension Service, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, The US Forest Service, the Livestock Auction Markets, the NM Farm and Livestock Bureau, the NM State Land Office, the NM Horse Council, and the NM Native American Tribal Groups. These groups were asked to name representatives to the advisory committee. The group meets a minimum of once per year, depending on need and funding.

2.2 **Where are we now?**

- **How is animal disease traceability currently defined? Is it viewed as a cross-cutting component to animal health information systems? Is it viewed as a stand-alone initiative?**

Animal disease traceability is defined in NM as the ability to locate animals and the producers responsible for those animals. It is primarily used for tracking disease outbreaks related to exposure by commingling both within the state and across state lines.

- **What measures of traceability capability are currently being used? What are the specific values and associated interpretation?**

New Mexico is a brand state. According to statute "... the board is the sole authority for the registration of brands, marks or electronic identification on livestock in this state". Brand is defined as "...a symbol or device in a form approved by and recorded with the Board as may be sufficient to readily distinguish livestock should they become intermixed with other livestock." Mark is defined as "... an ear tag or ownership mark that is not a brand."

The brand database contains over 30,000 designs owned by the livestock producers. Brand inspectors are outfitted with portable modern technology that enables them to enter activities in real time. Livestock moving across district lines and state lines must be inspected by a livestock inspector. The inspection reports are all identified by the GPS coordinates where livestock are located.

- **How is coordination being currently achieved within the unit?**

All inspection reports are uploaded electronically daily to the Livestock Board mainframe computer. The New Mexico State Veterinarian's office and the Livestock Board staff are housed at the same location, simplifying communication.

- **How is coordination being currently achieved state-wide, tribal-wide, territory-wide?**

All animal movement data developed by state livestock inspectors is downloaded to the Livestock Board IT infrastructure.

- **How does the present unit coordinate activities with other existing agencies/units?**

Livestock movement needs, concerns, and documentation are shared with other states and tribal units as needed. New Mexico will gladly assist tribal governments when assistance is requested.

- **What standards for traceability are currently being used? Are they appropriate?**

Standards for traceability involve compliance with federal and state regulations which include entry permit numbers for livestock traveling into New Mexico, submission of ICVIs, and import/export inspections. Free exchange of information amongst trading partners and neighbors and MOUs with said groups are important sources of information to meet traceability requirements.

- **What is the state of technology infrastructure? Capability in terms of size? Compatibility within and outside the agency/unit/department for sharing data when needed?**

The NMLB maintains an extensive database housed in Albuquerque on a robust server and network infrastructure. All data from animal disease testing and livestock inspections performed in the field is maintained in searchable form in the database. Outside access to web interfaces to the agency database is available to those who need it. Examples include online permit access and reports on livestock movement at a local, state, and interstate level. The New Mexico Livestock Board employs full time staff who can interchange data readily using any of the various standard data interchange methods. The agency's infrastructure, including staff, servers, network and existing programs is robust, and the ability to exchange data with others is very strong.

- **Are requests for information available 24/7, or only available M-F, 40 hours per week, if authorized personnel are present?**

Access to the Livestock Board database is available on a 24/7 basis, as requested by other states and tribal groups. Although animal health officials are generally available during regular business, state veterinarians and staff responsible for electronic data accessibility are available on call for emergency situations. An after-hours permit line is available 24/7 and permits can be created online at any time. Counties and other states that have established login credentials in the system can access New Mexico's livestock movement data anytime.

- **What is the impact of state, tribe, or territory funding on capability? How does Federal funding fit into the plan?**

The ability of this state to efficiently conduct an Animal Disease Traceability program is totally dependent on Cooperative Agreement funding from USDA. The New Mexico Livestock Board is primarily financed by user fees, brand registration, property taxes, and limited state funding, and is not likely to receive additional subsidy from the New Mexico Legislature. In fact, the state swept the agency reserves in the amount of \$500,000 for 2016. Due to a major budget shortfall at the state level, \$1,000,000 was swept away from agency reserves for 2017.

2.3 **Strengths and Weaknesses**

- **What are the strengths of the organization in terms of technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?**

New Mexico's strengths concerning animal disease traceability lie in the state-of-the-art livestock inspection system as summarized in section 2.2 above. The agency has mandatory inspections into and out of the state's 26 livestock inspection districts. The personnel strengths and willingness allows the agency the ability to accomplish a lot with a little.

- **What are the weaknesses in terms of "lack of" technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?**

Inadequate funding is always a factor. As requirements for animal disease traceability increase, staffing shortfalls with respect to field personnel become apparent as the heavy load of inspections required for fall movement of cattle occurs. Lack of manpower and the large land areas that must be covered by each inspector place a heavy burden on resources. The Office of the State Veterinarian is understaffed to meet the current needs. Two veterinarians (the State Animal Health Official and one field veterinarian) are presently the staff of the Office of the State Veterinarian. Recruitment of a second field veterinarian and an administrative assistant are actively taking place.

2.4 **Opportunities and Threats**

- **Does this plan enable or avoid consequences of potential threats?**

Captured information pertaining to ownership may reduce consequences of certain catastrophic events assuming that animals are individually identified.

- **Does this plan provide for better use of available resources than current approaches?**

The basic goal of this plan is to readily follow animals in groups and individually. All new decision making will be based on the ease of identifying individuals and capturing that identification.

- **Does this plan enhance networking opportunities?**
Access to the New Mexico Livestock Board database is constantly available to other states and tribal groups. This access encourages information sharing and communication between state animal health organizations.
- **If this plan is not implemented, what are the threats?**
Livestock industries in the state would suffer tremendous economic losses due to the inability and/or inconvenience associated with interstate shipment of animals.
- **If this plan is not implemented, will others be tasked with doing so?**
The New Mexico Livestock Board is by state statute the only organization responsible for control of livestock movement.
- **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?**
No; coordination with tribal entities has taken place on various occasions regarding educational outreach, brand registration, Premises Identification Number (PIN) registration and livestock movement. New Mexico has the largest livestock port in the nation. The agency is currently working with its Mexican counterparts to insure traceability of cattle originating in Mexico.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

- **Human resources:**
The financial opportunity for continued operation of a national animal identification program is totally dependent on continued funding in terms of the Federal Cooperative Agreement. Additional support for office staff, funding for travel, educational outreach for livestock producers and continuing education for field personnel and accredited veterinarians is of paramount importance.
- **Space availability:**
Space availability could be a possible limitation. The agency is seeking new office space to allow room for growth and better security for agency records.

- **Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field:**
Connectivity resources are not a concern in the field. Inspectors can work offline and synch their computers to the main server daily. All inspectors are equipped with ruggedized laptop notebooks for entering country inspections in the field.
- **Access to USDA animal disease traceability and animal health information resources:**
Direct access to USDA servers is difficult for state employees due to the federal security system in place. However, communication with federal staff is excellent and information can be retrieved and verified in a timely manner.
- **Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access animal disease traceability or animal health information:**
Reliance on paper records has been reduced to a minimum. Due to technological advances and the favorable acceptance of electronic capabilities by many producers and veterinarians, manual data entry has been greatly reduced and information sharing has improved significantly. The Office of the State Veterinarian is encouraging the use of eCVIs by not charging user fees. Paper documents submitted to the agency are processed and linked to search criteria to enable faster retrieval.
- **Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.:**
The New Mexico Livestock Board has extensive capabilities in this area. All the livestock movement records, brand ownership records, quarantine information, and animal disease testing records are electronic. The agency scans documents such as out-of-state ICVIs, EIA forms and NPIP VS 9-3 forms extensively and uses databases to retrieve and review the information. The state has an automated interface into Global Vet Link's CVI records for New Mexico. All the livestock inspectors have logins to access the data they need on the servers. The New Mexico Livestock Board has 16 TB of storage capability with significant growth capacity available. Appropriate security measures for maintenance of electronic data are in place.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

- **Vision and Mission Statement**
Our mission is to protect the integrity of New Mexico's livestock industry. Our team of about sixty full time inspectors and another sixty full and part time deputies continuously patrol and perform inspections

around our state to help keep our livestock free from disease and safe from theft. We are also the office of the State Veterinarian, whose team collaborates with various government and private sector partners to ensure that our state remains free of diseases.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

- The goal at the New Mexico Livestock Board is to continue to develop and upgrade a statewide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with state, tribe, territory and USDA standards.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

○ FY2017- 2019

The groundwork has already been laid. Currently, the goals include increasing implementation of basic ADT concepts.

- **Goal:** Continue to provide outreach information to producers and veterinarians concerning the Animal Disease Traceability Program.
- **Goal:** Enhance compliance with ADT programs through both international terrestrial ports to the level that is expected in the rest of the state.
- **Goal:** Enhance communication and sharing of information with agencies in other states.

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures

There are four animal disease traceability performance measures used for documenting progress and accountability in New Mexico.

- The first performance measure reflects the time it takes to determine the state where the imported animal was officially identified.
- The second performance measure defines the amount of time required to determine the physical location in the state where the animal was identified.
- The third performance measure establishes the time required to identify the state an imported animal was moved from when it moved interstate.
- The fourth performance measure determines the time it takes to find the physical location an exported animal was shipped from when it moved interstate.
- **How has performance been measured to date?**
Performance has been measured by retrieval of pertinent animal ID information, and origin and destination of the shipment within a given time period by using internal databases.

- **What is the current baseline? Measures should be offered as performance per unit of time.**

The current baseline for tracing animals in New Mexico is less than an hour. Animals that are not officially identified pose an entirely different challenge. The time required to trace these animals by paper trails will be totally dependent on the number of traces required, ranging from minutes for single individuals to longer periods of time for large numbers. Unfortunately, due to understaffing of trained personnel, traces are quickly completed once started, but finding time to perform traces is limited.

- **If the four recommended performance measures are not used, when will they be used?**

The four recommended performance measures are in place and in use.

4.4 Data requirements

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

Valuable traceability data is collected electronically and in paper format. Although the state continues to encourage electronic format whenever possible, paper will continue to be scanned and processed and integrated in developing animal disease traceability information. Searchable criteria include the name of the veterinarian, consignor and consignee information, animal identification, physical descriptions of livestock and entry permit numbers on imported animals.

- **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**

Although New Mexico is a brand state, it recognizes all forms of official identification as approved by USDA. The state allows commuter herd agreements with neighboring states and has MOUs in place with other states to ease commerce and traceability.

- **What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used?**

Tag distribution is performed by the office staff. Tag ranges are recorded in an internal database and trace the distribution to the accredited veterinarian. The receiving practitioner maintains records of distribution to the producer.

- **What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?**

Commuter herd agreements are required to list the name of the person responsible, their contact information, the individual or group/lot

identification including brands, and the Premises Identification Number (PIN) or GPS coordinates of both the originating and target premises. The proposed rules provide for an exemption stating that ICVIs are not required for animals moving as a commuter herd if accompanied by the commuter herd agreement and an inspection. Commuter herds move under brand requirements. Since Colorado requires official calfhood vaccination, all Colorado cows are identified with official bangs ear tags.

- **What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to ICVIs?**

Forms for export to other states are determined by the receiving states. All species: Brand inspection certificate (as approved by shipping and receiving states).

Cattle, sheep and goats: Commuter herd agreement.

Equines: Form 1 (as approved by shipping and receiving states).

Poultry: NPIP VS Form 9-3 or as required by shipping and receiving states.

- **How and when will data be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA?**

Data will be shared as requested.

4.5 Information technology plan

The NMLB prepares an exhaustive technology plan annually and submits it to the New Mexico Department of Information Technology. This plan is available upon request. The agency develops all its systems internally.

4.6 Resource requirements

- **Is specific expertise needed that is not currently available?**

No, if the need arises a position can be created or, in the event that a full time position cannot be filled, contract labor can be utilized.

- **Will consultants be needed?**

The agency will continue to use available consultants from the industry including Global Animal Management, Global Vet Life, Fort Supply, Allflex, Inc.

- **Is a continuity of operation plan (COOP) in place and how frequently is it tested?**

A contingency plan is on file with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and is updated as needed.

4.7 Organizational needs

- **Does a need for organizational change exist? Is it recognized?**

No organizational changes have been identified at this time.

- **Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure?**

Currently, operational resources are limited and are not likely to be leveraged further. Due to poor fiscal planning on the part of the state, operational resources are being decreased.

4.7.1 Executive support

- **Is additional support from executive management needed?**

Livestock Board management, including the Board of Directors, are highly supportive of the general concept of the Plan.

Additional support is provided by the Secretary of Agriculture and members of his department.

- **How is accountability provided?**

Accountability is provided via input to the Board of Directors at board meetings.

- **How are officials briefed on progress and baseline measures of performance?**

Officials are updated at regular board meetings, industry meetings, and by regular reports to the Governor's office.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- **How are emergency preparedness resources engaged or responded to when necessary?**

There is a robust interagency support system in place. This system includes the NM Dept. of Agriculture, the NM Department of Health, NM State University, Agriculture Livestock Immediate Response Team (ALIRT) veterinarians, the NMLB, all branches of NM law enforcement and federal partners.

4.7.3 Policy

- **How do existing mandates assist, limit, or modify what is intended to be achieved?**

New Mexico statutes are entirely supportive of the Plan as anticipated.

- **Is there a need to address any specific mandates and act to modify them to align them with current goals and objectives?**
None is anticipated.

4.7.4 Staffing

- The New Mexico Livestock Board is, by statute, the sole authority for animal identification in the State. As such, the staffing for this Plan is a normal extension of duties of the entire personnel staff of the New Mexico Livestock Board. Justification for implementation of the Plan and qualifications of staff are not a matter of concern.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- **How are you funded for animal disease traceability? State, Tribe, Territory versus Federal?**

The New Mexico Livestock Board including the State Veterinarian's Office is primarily funded with user fees, a limited amount of state funding, and Federal Cooperative Agreements. The Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement provides the bulk of the funding for this plan.

- **What are the funding requirements projected by year for FY2017- 2019**

This question was addressed in the Executive Summary section of the Road Map.

How is cost sharing achieved?

Cost sharing is achieved through the Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement and state input.

- **How can the applicant insulate against budget cuts and shortfalls?**

The current economic situation dictates that increases in personnel must be matched with additional funding. State and Livestock Board resources are stretched to the limit. Any further reduction in funding will hinder all aspects of the Plan.

- **Can other funding sources be leveraged to support this plan?**

There are no other sources of funding of any significance.

4.7.6 **Outreach**

4.7.6.1. **Accredited veterinarians**

Continuing education in the form of certifications are offered yearly to new veterinarians. Additional outreach is scheduled as funding becomes available. Seminars are often scheduled with the assistance of the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension service and other commodity organizations.

- **What continuing education is being planned for improving data quality relative to animal health information systems being used? Submitting official forms in a timely manner?**
In-house educational efforts will be continuous. Periodic training sessions for livestock inspectors and accredited veterinarians are held as funding permits. The New Mexico Livestock Board has an active collaborative relationship with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the State Veterinary Medical Association. Issues regarding appropriate documentation are dealt with on an individual basis.
- **What role, if any, does the accredited veterinarian have in providing low-cost, official identification tags/devices to producers?**
Accredited veterinarians will continue to attach the state numerically coded program tags (85) as in the past. These tags will continue to be distributed to veterinarians by the Livestock Board and APHIS.

4.7.6.2. **Livestock markets**

New Mexico conducts educational meetings with these markets on an individual basis as time and funding allows.

- **What is the plan for accessing or requesting traceability information from livestock markets?**
New Mexico requires on-site veterinary presence and inspection of all livestock consigned to livestock markets. The on-site veterinarian is responsible for all movement control of consigned animals. It is mandatory that all livestock moving through markets have USDA official identification, accomplished by existing metal and other official forms of identification and brands.

4.7.6.3. **Industry as a whole**

See 4.7.6.1. The same conditions apply.

- How is industry being informed of the implementation plan?**
 The organizations representing the various livestock commodities are serving as a source of information for the livestock industries. The agency will continue to interact with those organizations and provide them with updated information concerning the Animal Disease Traceability program. Periodic updates will be made via the *New Mexico Stockman* magazine.
- What constitutes industry? What species are involved? How are under-represented and under-served communities being included in the outreach plan?**
 Livestock industries in New Mexico consist of beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine, poultry, equines, and minor species including cervids and camelids. Under-represented and under-served groups can most effectively be reached through the Cooperative Extension Service.

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

- How will the number of animals and the number of shipments be monitored that move interstate?**
 Inspection and reporting of all imports and exports of livestock is mandatory. These inspections are conducted by Livestock Board inspectors and are reported daily and can be enumerated easily by the IT staff. Additionally, ICVIs capture the information required regarding movement of animals.
- How will the data be verified or validated?**
 Data is reported electronically and validated by comparison with paper documents that follow.
- The following data must be reported for quarterly reports:

 - 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

V. TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- **What specific steps are needed to advance from where the initiative currently resides?**
 1. Continue to capture and monitor data from incoming and outgoing ICVIs
 2. Continue to implement an individual identification system for all livestock species.
 3. Continue to enforce federal requirements for interstate movement of livestock.
 4. Conduct educational outreach programs for producers, accredited veterinarians, livestock inspectors, and livestock markets.
 5. Initiate MOUs with neighboring states to encourage livestock movement and traceability in underserved areas.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

Objectives are already being implemented. Changes to implementation may take place based on interest and need of the stakeholders.