

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR NEVADA 2020

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is working towards compliance with the federal traceability rules. Progress has been made toward modernizing the state's animal traceability system. With the USDA commitment to provide EID Brucellosis tags at no additional charge, we hope to see the number of EID tagged livestock increase across the state.

Nevada's entry permit system provides traceability information within an hour during regular operating hours. This entry permit system is also remotely accessible to the State Veterinarian outside of normal operating hours if needed. Animals requiring an entry permit (swine, cattle, sheep, and goats) can be traced to an associated Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) in real time.

Currently, requests for traceability information are answered during normal business hours unless extenuating circumstances require immediate attention. For all species, trace time is a function of timely receipt of CVI's from in-state and out-of-state veterinarians. Scrapie tag traces may be accomplished in one day. Data from the federal database is normally available within an hour, but always within one day. Manual traces of CVIs have been accomplished within 2-3 days of request. Currently, NDA has observed an increased number of Nevada practitioners using electronic CVI's. NDA staff can search GVL, VSPS, and AgView in real time with trace information being available within minutes or hours, depending on staff availability.

During each month of NDA's cooperative agreement period, letters and registration forms are mailed to producers and equine communities. At the beginning of NDA's 2018 cooperative agreement period, Nevada's premises enrollment was 59%. At the close of the agreement period, enrollment had reached 62%. Nevada maintained the tenth position of enrolled premises. Nevada maintains open lines of communication with the state cooperators and successfully registers premises and grazing allotments through the state data entry program.

Outreach has been accomplished with a mail campaign to Nevada practicing veterinary practitioners, regardless of their specialty. Notification provides encouragement and program specifics outlining the importance of their participation. Primary emphasis to practitioners was client awareness, participation to potential and real health situations, with an emphasis on first awareness. As a result, NDA has noted a 70% favorable response. NDA staff took part in youth group activities, including livestock fairs throughout the state, including the Nevada Junior Livestock Show and Sale. This enabled education of premises' registration and Scrapie program activities as related to the importance of trace back. Trade show participation included video livestock auctions, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, bull sales, equine sales, NCBA Convention, and the Nevada Woolgrowers Association.

NDA staff replaced metal Scrapie tags with RFID tags at a Lyon County sheep ranch. This activity enabled the producer increased accuracy and tracking of inventory, reproduction statistics, wool harvested, and loss due to predation by retaining the data in an easy to manage and retrievable automated program. Subsequent return visits were made to evaluate, under field conditions, the success of the tags from a data and animal health standpoint. The producer was very pleased with the RFID tag implementation outcome. The effectiveness, speed, and efficiency of the RFID system provides the producer with a reduction in labor expenses while providing the ability to manage the flock with greater efficiency.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

The Animal Industry Division of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture is responsible for implementing the animal disease traceability system for the state of Nevada. Livestock producers and veterinarians are NDA's primary constituents. NDA's external constituents are the national livestock industry, USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services and consumer groups.

NDA's jurisdiction includes the state of Nevada as well as continued cooperation and open communication with the state's indigenous tribes.

All traceability data is used internally by the NDA to aide in disease investigations. Data is shared with USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services when requested. Privacy of data is an important goal of NDA's animal traceability system. The utmost effort will be made to ensure that any data collected via paper will be uploaded securely in electronic databases without duplication or error.

2.2 Where are we now?

Current tracking ability exists through the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) forms and is supported by Brucellosis (VS 4-33) and Tuberculosis (VS 6-22) test records. An inventory of female cattle is maintained through official calfhood vaccination certificates (VS 4-24). Nevada has a state mandatory record retention schedule of three (3) years, which will be extended to five (5) years to be compliant with ADT requirements. This record keeping requirement currently enables a manual search of CVIs when needed. The retention period would suffice except for BSE and other slow viral infections, such as Equine Infectious Anemia. The ability to manually search records will be maintained but is dependent on full staffing capabilities. Sixty percent of NDA's laboratory clerical time is supported by current cooperative agreement ADT funding (interstate transport permits, shipping of in-state ICVIs to receiving states, management of incoming out-of-state ICVIs, and manual trace backs).

Nevada's infrastructure for ADT consists of an Access database, which houses all livestock movements into the state. Nevada requires an ICVI, permit number and a combination of TB, T. fetus, and brucellosis tests on cattle imports. The requirements vary between age groups, beef and dairy, and breeding versus slaughter or show animals. Additionally, Nevada has entry permit requirements for sheep, goats, and pigs. Horses and poultry require an ICVI, but no permit. NDA's data entry personnel are responsible for compliance checks on incoming paper health certificates and electronic CVIs, as well as filing and retrieval if trace back is required. This position is also responsible for forwarding the Nevada ICVIs to the receiving states. All these duties are currently performed manually and by mail since no scanning capability exists to forward ICVI's electronically. Due to staffing and funding constraints, the department cannot estimate when NDA will be able to implement electronically forwarded ICVIs. The current operation of mailing is performed on a monthly basis, which limits the 48-hour traceback ability on recent interstate movements.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths: NDA's current operation is the implementation of the electronic brand inspection system and mandatory calfhood brucellosis vaccination requirements. As Nevada is a mandatory brand inspection state, most NDA brand inspectors are equipped with iPads for recording inspections and uploading the brand certificates in real time to a central server housed at the NDA. Most cattle exported from Nevada ship from a producer's operation location in truck load lots as opposed to the public livestock auctions in Nevada. Brand inspection of all cattle is a requirement of these shipments when transferring ownership, crossing brand inspection district boundaries, or in route to slaughter. Nevada has a mandatory calfhood brucellosis vaccination requirement, which results in about 50,000 heifer calves receiving individual animal ID's annually. Approximately 5,000 of these heifer calves received EID Bangs tags in lieu of metal NUES Bangs tags. EID data at the two Nevada public livestock auctions can be captured manually when possible. The ability to respond in a timely manner is paramount to Nevada producers and regulatory officials.

Weaknesses: There is clear opportunity for implementation of the EID capture data system to track animal movements. Response times would be expedited with the implementation of an all-electronic data system. Unfortunately, the current brand inspection system cannot capture or transmit individual ID data. Most female cattle in the state have individual ID's but is difficult to manually capture the data currently. While cooperative agreement funds are appreciated and essential to NDA's current activities, current levels of state funding are inadequate to implement a robust system currently. In time, with USDA's commitment to deliver EID tags to the state without charge, the adult cattle in Nevada with EID's will increase.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities: Providing education and promoting the use of EID tags to producers and industry partners allows NDA the opportunity to provide information on all aspects of ADT. The continued implementation and transition of producers and accredited veterinarians to the use of EID tags provides benefits for all involved in ADT. Increased data collection, accuracy, and quicker epidemiological investigations will result in a shortened timeline to contain and eradicate diseases.

Threats: Failure to continue progressing Nevada's ADT program and infrastructure could negatively affect the department's ability of protecting the state's animal agriculture, food safety, and commerce.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The Animal Industry Division consists of five programs:

- Veterinary Medical Services Program:
 - State Veterinarian (State general funded)
 - Veterinary Diagnostician (State general funded)
 - Laboratory Supervisor (State general funded)
 - Microbiologist III (State general funded)
 - Microbiologist IV (State general funded)
 - Administrative Assistant III (State general funded)
 - Biologist III (State general funded)
 - Division Administrator (State general funded)
 - ADT Data Entry Personnel (Part time position funded by State general fund and USDA)
 - ADT Coordinator (Part-time position funded by USDA)
- Livestock Inspection Program:
 - Program Officer I (State fee funded)
 - Administrative Assistant II (State fee funded)
 - Laboratory Technician I (State fee funded)
 - Brand Inspectors (60 part-time state fee funded positions)
- Livestock Enforcement Program:
 - Agricultural Enforcement Officer III (State fee and general funded)
 - Agricultural Enforcement Officer II's (4 full-time fee and general funded positions)
- Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Program:
 - Field Assistant II's: (7 full-time state fee and general funded positions)
- Commercial Feed Registration Program:
 - No dedicated positions

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The Animal Industry Division of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture is committed to reaching and exceeding federal animal disease traceability requirements.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the Nevada Department of Agriculture is to preserve, protect and promote Nevada Agriculture.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

- a. Enhance electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry. This will include sharing basic ADT data with the Federal Animal Health Events Repository (AHER).
- b. Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification in order to make the transmission of data more efficient.
- c. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected.
- d. Encourage and promote a system where all animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to state animal health officials and EID data linked into the USDA system.

4.2 Programmatic goals

- a. Provide outreach to industry promoting increased data quality and processing of animal health information forms.
- b. Continued monitoring of ICVI data to improve quality.
- c. Input data into appropriate systems.
- d. Improve retrieval times of available traceability information.
- e. Establish compatible standards for sharing data with states/tribes/territories and USDA when needed.
- f. Integrate surveillance and traceability data.
- g. Update policies and procedures.
- h. Enhance IT infrastructure.
- i. Establish and/or update electronic tag distribution record system.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures

- a. Objective 1: Maintain current animal disease traceability infrastructure while building upon existing systems with available funding and staffing.
- b. Objective 2: Upgrade the potential of a 48-hour trace of diseased animals.
- c. Objective 3: Institute a program providing five-day transfer of data to other states. This database will be able to house individual ID data as entered by private practitioners obtaining permits for ICVIs for animals traveling interstate.
- d. Objective 4: Implement an outreach plan for accredited veterinarians and public livestock auctions describing the applicant's plan for advancing animal disease traceability, emphasizing interstate certificates of veterinary inspection, record keeping, and timely distribution requirements by accredited veterinarians.
- e. Objective 5: Optimize the acquisition and search ability of potential animal disease traceability data from interstate certificates of veterinary inspection, and if applicable, data from bovine brucellosis vaccination, bovine brucellosis testing, and bovine tuberculosis testing.

4.4 Data requirements

- a. Fully describe standards to be used for location identification, if used.
 - i. The standards used are those created by the USDA under the NAIS system and will not change.
- b. Fully describe standards to be used for official animal identification, including arrangements with other states, tribes, territories, as well as an official identification method/device used within the cooperator's jurisdiction.
 - i. NDA has a Memorandum of Understanding with Utah.
 - ii. NDA is currently issuing low frequency RFID tags. RFID tags may be requested by a producer's veterinarian and can either be shipped or picked up at one of our office locations. Tag distribution is currently tracked electronically in-house.
- c. What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used?
 - i. NDA is currently utilizing an in-house Excel tracking spreadsheet for recordkeeping.
- d. What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?
 - i. For established breeding herds only.
 - ii. Permit application on department provided form.
 - iii. Origin and destination.
 - iv. Females 12 months or older must be official brucellosis calfhood vaccinates.

- v. Negative T. fetus test chart must be provided for bulls 12 months or older and must be tested annually between October 1 and May 31 of previous year.
 - vi. Nevada registered brand.
- e. What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to CVIs?
 - i. NPIP 9-3 forms.
- f. How and when will data be shared with other states, territories, tribes, and the USDA?
 - i. CVI's generated in Nevada will be sent to destination states weekly.
 - ii. Nevada has an open working relationship with surrounding states, tribes and USDA staff. Data may be requested by any of these entities and will be shared readily.

4.5 Information technology plan

- a. Current tracking databases are in-house Excel and Access tracking systems. Entry permits may be obtained by phone or email at (775) 778-0277 or entrypermits@agri.nv.gov.
- b. NDA is researching the implementation of an electronic program, such as USAHERDS or a comparable system.

4.6 Resource requirements

- a. Conversion of current part time data entry personnel to a full-time position.
- b. Funding for additional electronic capture equipment.
- c. Funding for the implementation of an electronic program, such as USAHERDS or a comparable system.

4.7 Organizational needs

4.7.1 Executive support

- i. NDA's administration understands the benefits and are a strong proponent of furthering Nevada's animal disease traceability system.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- i. NDA's Animal Industry Division will coordinate, oversee and operate all animal disease traceability systems.

4.7.3 Policy

- i. Rules are in place.

4.7.4 Staffing

- i. Cooperative agreement funded data entry personnel position needs to be converted to a full-time position. Additionally, the ADT Coordinator position could better serve the program in a full-time position. Both needs rely upon the program obtaining additional funding through both state and USDA sources.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- i. While there is currently no state funding solely allocated for ADT, the Department will continue to require funding through cooperative agreements to continue and improve upon the current program. The Department continues to seek options for funding opportunities.

4.7.6 Outreach

- i. Outreach to accredited veterinarians will continue by outlining and encouraging their participation in ADT, CVI submissions, use of electronic health certificates, promoting EID tags, and the equipment needed to record and submit data electronically.
- ii. NDA works closely with cooperating agencies (two federally inspected slaughter facilities and two live bird markets).
- iii. Outreach to livestock producers and public livestock auctions will continue at industry meetings and through one on one communications.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

- i. Livestock entering Nevada require an entry permit from NDA. Currently, all requests for permits must be accompanied by copies of a CVI and any required test results. From the time this process was implemented, NDA has noted a reduction in compliance issues that require follow-up by department staff. All outbound animal CVIs from Nevada accredited veterinarians are reviewed for completeness and accuracy by NDA personnel. Any non-compliant documents are addressed through written notification and communication to the issuing veterinarian.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1. Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Implementation of EID capture equipment and software at the two Nevada public livestock auctions.
- Issuance of capture equipment to a portion of the state's brand inspectors and accredited veterinarians to further field test

implementation of hardware and software to capture data and upload tracking through brand inspection and eICVI's. This action will provide NDA a resource for regional testing and perfecting of the processes and equipment.

- Implementation statewide.

5.2 Implementation of objective

- i. Acquire adequate funding from the state and cooperating agencies to provide dedicated staffing, tools, and equipment.