

# ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR OKLAHOMA

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**A Three-Year Plan**

**Fiscal Years: 2019-2021**

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fundamental problem this plan addresses is the need to improve the ability to trace livestock moving interstate and for the corresponding data to be obtained and recorded in a searchable, shareable electronic format as efficiently as possible. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Animal Industry Service (ODAFF AIS) is committed to advancing animal disease traceability efforts within the state as well as regionally by aligning our traceability objectives to mirror the overarching goals established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2018. This includes advancing the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry by sharing basic traceability data with the federal animal health events repository (AHER), promoting and assisting with the transition of mandatory electronic identification for animals requiring individual official identification, exploring the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows for tracking data points to be connected, and by encouraging the use of electronic interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection by accredited veterinarians. The key elements of this plan include: traceability performance measures, administration of official identification devices, information sharing, electronic records, outreach and communication, and compliance and enforcement of traceability regulations. The primary benefits of a robust Animal Disease Traceability system in Oklahoma is the ability to efficiently and effectively track livestock during disease investigations. The disease threat can be mitigated when control measures are rapidly implemented due to infected or exposed animals being quickly located. These measures protect the vital animal agriculture industry within the state and allows for continuity of business which minimizes the economic impact during a disease response. Our plan builds upon previous efforts to advance animal disease traceability by incorporating successful existing methods and finding new innovated ways to accomplish our goals. For example, ODAFF AIS developed a successful state wide pilot project to increase the capture of official identification of cattle at livestock markets. We have also participated in National pilot projects to determine the feasibility of new technology methodologies by integrating the varied cattle industry sectors into these projects. Ultimately to have an effective traceability system in Oklahoma we will work with our producers, industry, accredited veterinarians, and USDA APHIS VS to build the infrastructure and framework necessary to propel us forward. This plan identifies our overall goals and objectives, identifies strengths and weaknesses, and outlines tasks that need to be accomplished during the timeline for implementation FY 2019-2021. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Animal Industry Services is dedicated to doing the best job possible with whatever amounts are allotted for this plan.

## II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

### 2.1 Who are we?

This roadmap is prepared and will be implemented by Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Animal Industry Services (ODAFF AIS). ODAFF AIS serves the livestock producers of Oklahoma and our mission is to protect the herds and flocks from incursion of disease. Traceability data is used by ODAFF AIS for disease traces, FDA tissue residue investigations, lost and stolen animal inquiries, and all hazards events like natural disasters. The values guiding the animal disease traceability

system in Oklahoma include industry protection and the maintenance of animal movement and commerce. The Oklahoma animal disease traceability advisory group represents the multiple facets of the Oklahoma livestock industry. As the efforts of traceability move to mandatory electronic identification of cattle requiring official identification by January 1, 2021, the advisory group will begin to meet regularly to discuss the best way to transition industry in Oklahoma to accommodate electronic identification (EID). The advisory group includes representatives from, but is not limited to:

- Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture
- Oklahoma State Veterinarian
- USDA APHIS VS Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)
- Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Science
- Oklahoma Farm Bureau
- Oklahoma Cattleman's Association
- Oklahoma Livestock Marketing Association
- Oklahoma Pork Council
- American Farmers and Ranchers
- Oklahoma Deer Farmers Association/Whitetails of Oklahoma

## 2.2 Where are we now?

In Oklahoma, traceability is defined as the cross-cutting component of all animal and disease programs which aids in locating and identifying individual animals, their previous locations, and any exposed animals.

### 2.2.1 Traceability Performance Measures (TPMs)

Currently, traceability proficiency is measured by the four trace performance measures (TPMs) defined by USDA APHIS VS. These TPMs have been established as one method to measure and document progress. Because of the unique location of Oklahoma, we are at a crossroads agriculturally speaking. Abundant numbers of cattle are moved interstate into our livestock markets and this allows us ample opportunity to perform traces. ODAFF AIS will utilize National Priority Traces (NPT), actual traces for either disease, disaster, or theft as well as exercise traces initiated by the USDA APHIS VS Animal Identification Coordinator to achieve the assigned number of TPMs. Results will be reported within the TPM utility provided in the Emergency Management Response System 2. Traces completed for the four trace performance measures thus far have been adequate. However, corrective action will be initiated if an elapsed time for any TPM successfully completed falls within an unacceptable rating.

### 2.2.2 Information Sharing and Electronic Records

ODAFF AIS's information system being used to support traceability efforts is being coordinated through USAHerds software. This software has been utilized since June 2011 and is currently being used by 17 other states in the nation. Enhancements to this software occur yearly and is a collaborative effort amongst all partner states. This allows for improvements in data standardization (such as the ability to receive the USAHA

standard eCVI XML message) and allows for the development of integration or communication into other systems to enhance sharing of vital data. Requests for information are available Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm. There is no specific funding for animal disease traceability through state appropriations; non-federal funds come directly from ODAFF's general fund. Without federal assistance, this program would be restrained and would require prioritization of certain traceability aspects. ODAFF has 6 terabytes of useable storage, and the USAHerds software runs separately on two dedicated SQL serves (1 terabyte of storage). Data can be shared within and outside the agency in multiple formats in reasonable amounts of time. An overview of ODAFF AIS's current traceability technology infrastructure is outlined below:

- USAHerds – used by Program Veterinarians and Administrative assistants as a database for bovine, swine, and cervidae disease monitoring programs. Used for licensing of farmed cervidae, aquaculture, and feral swine handling facilities. Used for allocation of both PINs and location identifiers (LIDs). All VS Form 4-54, VS Form 4-26, VS Form 6-22, and VS Form 4-33 data is uploaded into USAHerds. Currently, electronic CVIs that meet the USAHA xml data schema are uploaded into the system and in some cases automatically upon issuance (GlobalVetLINK, AgView). ODAFF AIS utilizes a complementary software to USAHerds called CIVET that allows us to process paper CVIs more rapidly. Entry of Import CVIs with official identification are a priority over CVIs with no official identification. ODAFF AIS's future goal is to utilize USAHerds to its full potential which would include entering all aspects of the poultry disease monitoring program, and capturing all CVI (paper and electronic) data into the application.
- Livestock Market Data Integration
  - In Oklahoma, all sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older moving through livestock markets must have official identification recorded and reported to ODAFF AIS on a VS Form 4-54 (no brucellosis test required). This identification is then input into USAHerds. In the past, when this data was received on paper VS Form 4-54 it was manually entered by temporary data entry clerks which resulted in a high number of clerical errors due to illegible handwriting and incomplete or missing official identification numbers. To combat this obstacle, ODAFF AIS developed a pilot project and provided surplus laptops to livestock markets with a Microsoft Access Database Livestock Market 4-54 file designed to capture specific data points at the livestock market. This file was then converted into a csv file and uploaded with minimal effort into USAHerds. Concurrently, there were livestock markets employing Barnsoft livestock market management software which allowed the submittal of 4-54 data electronically. Active promotion of the project enabled more than 12 livestock markets to begin utilizing the laptop and database. These 12 livestock markets and the livestock markets utilizing Barnsoft receive over 80% of all cattle sold. This enabled ODAFF AIS to capture the official

- identification electronically into USAHerds minimizing clerical errors and improving the traceability of animals moving through livestock markets.
- With support from industry, ODAFF AIS passed a new rule requiring VS Form 4-54 data to be recorded and submitted electronically. Beginning November 1, 2018, cattle requiring official identification moving through livestock markets in Oklahoma must have identification recorded and submitted electronically to ODAFF AIS. It is the Market Veterinarian of Record's responsibility to record and submit this information electronically. To mitigate the transition, surplus laptops were disseminated to livestock markets that were not currently participating in the pilot project on a one-time basis with a Microsoft Access Database Livestock Market 4-54 file installed. ODAFF AIS is not responsible for maintaining the surplus laptop and Market Veterinarians are encouraged to purchase their own equipment. ODAFF AIS also encourages the utilization of an Excel spreadsheet that can be provided to record and submit official identification electronically. This data is then uploaded into USAHerds. Temporary data entry personnel once needed for entry of paper 4-54s have now been tasked other ADT data priorities.
  - A future goal for ODAFF AIS is to work with producers and industry to develop a plan for building the infrastructure necessary in order for accredited veterinarians, official tagging sites, and livestock markets to capture electronic identification and still maintain speed of commerce in anticipation of the implementation of radio frequency identification (RFID) electronic identification for certain classes of cattle by January 1, 2023. As this requirement only impacts breeding cattle over 18 months of age, infrastructure needs should be minimal for the portion of the industry it would directly affect. However, ODAFF AIS would like to reduce the burden on this sector by proposing goals and objectives that would include supplying the necessary equipment to livestock markets and to Category 2 accredited veterinarians who practice predominately large animal veterinary medicine and whose clientele includes rural Oklahoma livestock producers. This equipment would need to incorporate RFID technology that can integrate with the USDA Mobile Information Management Systems (MIMS) used for disease testing, can integrate with electronic interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, can capture low-frequency RFID tags along with other data points with the ultimate goal of developing electronic records that can be converted into a format that allows for the data to be input into USAHerds and other databases like AHER as needed. While funding for this goal is unknown, ODAFF AIS will utilize personnel to provide technical support, training, and demonstrations if given the opportunity to pursue this avenue.
- Cattle Trace ADT Pilot Project partner
    - Beginning in FY 2019, ODAFF AIS has become a partner state for Cattle Trace, the industry-driven pilot project for animal disease traceability. 2 participating livestock markets in Oklahoma will be outfitted with Ultra-high frequency (UHF) RFID equipment. A cow/calf producer will be

recruited to tag livestock with UHF tags prior to movement to the above mentioned livestock markets. Tracking data points will be maintained by Cattle Trace.

- ODAFF AIS Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) Database
  - Oklahoma CVIs (Oklahoma exports and intrastate movements) are scanned and filed by month and state of destination. These CVIs can be electronically queried by certificate number, species, state and month. Copies are emailed to the state of destination within 7 days of receipt.
  - Out of state CVIs (Oklahoma imports) are scanned and filed by month and species. These CVIs can be electronically queried by species, state, and month. ODAFF AIS utilizes a complementary software to USAHerds called CIVET that allows for a more efficient way to upload paper CVIs into an electronic format. Currently, entry of Import CVIs with official identification are a priority over Import CVIs with no official identification.
  - Electronic CVIs that adhere to the USAHA eCVI xml schema are the preferred record to capture interstate movement of livestock as this data integrates into USAHerds seamlessly. This data is searchable, shareable, and captures official identification. In order to increase the amount of eCVIs being used by OK accredited veterinarians, ODAFF AIS has provided demonstrations of eCVIs, participated in eCVI pilot projects like the successful IIAD iCVI mobile app, and increased the price of a pad of paper CVIs over the last several years.
  
- USDA APHIS VS animal disease traceability information systems
  - Standardized Premises Identification System (SPIS)
  - Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS)

### 2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

ODAFF AIS's strengths include USAHerds, the VS Form 4-54 bovine identification data collected electronically at all Oklahoma livestock markets, several administrative assistants proficient at PIN allocation and USAHerds navigation. All livestock data entered into USAHerds is in a searchable format that allows for rapid dissemination of information when performing disease trace backs and trace outs. ODAFF's weaknesses include CVI scanning and electronic retrieval, limited data entry personnel for CVI and test chart integration into USAHerds, shortage of electronic CVI and RFID tag usage, not operating USAHerds to its full potential, and not having an administrator dedicated to traceability only.

### 2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Cattle, poultry, and pig production rank as the top three agricultural commodities by 2018 Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics (USDA NASS) with cattle having a value of 3.6 billion dollars in 2016. A domestic or foreign animal disease event could have a devastating direct impact on these producers; however, the indirect economic effects



would be far reaching both locally and statewide. Additionally, Oklahoma is subject to multiple catastrophic events on an annual basis, such as tornados, wildfires, drought, winter storms, flooding, and even earthquakes. Although this plan does not specifically create opportunities in ODAFF's ability to respond, the traceability infrastructure is another tool that can be used to provide relief (e.g. linking missing livestock with their owners). This plan would avoid consequences of potential threats due to the comprehensive traceability infrastructure being developed and provide for better use of available resources than current approaches. This plan would also enhance networking opportunities with federal and state agencies. If this plan is not implemented, no other agency will be tasked with doing so. In the past, ODAFF AIS has been successful in coordinating with other entities regarding traceability.

#### 2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

Human resources of ODAFF AIS available for traceability purposes include: 1 state veterinarian, 3 staff veterinarians, 1 veterinary medical officer, 13 livestock inspectors, 5 administrative assistants, and 2 temporary employees. There are no connectivity issues in the office; Oklahoma Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) manages the software and hardware systems for all state agencies allowing for better IT infrastructure and maintenance. All necessary personnel have access to the animal disease traceability information systems. All paper record systems are maintained in storage (by import state, export species, or test program) for at least five years. Automated data capture capability is limited to certificate number and species of CVIs unless it is generated by an eCVI compatible with the USAHA eCVI xml schema. The USAHerds application and database Server uses Dell Power Edge 210 Server and Windows Server 2008R2 Standard. It has 8 gigabytes of RAM and a storage capacity of 1 Terabyte. The servers are protected by the agency firewall, and only super users have administrative access to the server. Users can apply for accounts through the USAHerds application.

### III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

#### 3.1 Vision Statement

"To advance traceability so as to better protect Oklahoma producers' animals, livelihood, and future."

#### 3.2 Mission Statement

"To protect the herd and flock of Oklahoma."

### IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### 4.1 Strategic goal

"To further develop and implement a State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State and USDA standards."

#### 4.2 Programmatic goals

FY 2019 – Increase use of eCVIs by accredited veterinarians; promotion of RFID tags and readers during outreach activities; purchase RFID readers for use at livestock markets

FY 2020 – Majority of Category 2 accredited veterinarians and livestock markets utilize eCVIs; continue building traceability infrastructure for livestock markets; distribution of RFID tags

FY 2021 – continued use of RFID tags and utilization of MIMS; traceability infrastructure in place for livestock markets; all Category 2 accredited veterinarians utilizing eCVIs.

#### 4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures

Prior to the animal disease traceability program, ODAFF AIS had no objective measure of traceability. Currently, traceability capability is measured by the four performance standards defined by USDA APHIS VS. Abundant numbers of cattle are moved interstate into our livestock markets and this allows us ample opportunity to perform traces. Traces completed for the four performance standards thus far have been adequate.

#### 4.4 Data requirements

Premises identification shall follow standards set by USDA APHIS VS and the SPIS. Location identification shall be allocated through the USAHerds software. An account will be necessary for LIDs which will include basic contact information; however, a mailing address will be accepted in place of a physical address. ODAFF AIS verifies, creates and updates locational information associated with these premises using information obtained from entry of CVIs, test charts, and vaccination records. Commuter swine herds must provide a monthly summary of interstate movements, and must also test 5% of the herd annually for brucellosis and pseudorabies. There are no additional forms, with the exception of cervidae, necessary for interstate movement. Traceability data will be shared with USDA APHIS VS upon request. Export CVIs are emailed to the state of destination within 7 days of receipt. Group/lot identification will be handled according to USDA APHIS VS standards and guidelines.

##### 4.4.1 Administration of Official Identification Devices

Oklahoma's official identification standards follow 9 CFR. Oklahoma has no special arrangements with other states in regards to other identification formats. ODAFF AIS distributes NUES tags (NUES 9 metal, NUES 8 metal, and orange OCV metal) to livestock inspectors and accredited veterinarians. Tag distribution records are maintained at the State/Federal Brucellosis laboratory and within USAHerds. Beginning FY19, ODAFF AIS will begin to audit accredited veterinarians to determine appropriate tag distribution of records are in place. All livestock markets in Oklahoma are approved tagging sites and thus it is not necessary for ODAFF AIS to distribute NUES tags to producers at this time. However, ODAFF AIS has allocated the Heart of America DHIA chapter in Oklahoma as an official tagging site and they are able to distribute NUES tags to their producers. Records of tags allocated are submitted electronically on a monthly basis. ODAFF AIS is prepared to work cooperatively with USDA during the implementation timeline for the transition from metal to electronic RFID tags that will

occur December 31, 2019- January 1, 2023 by contributing to a cost-share program to provide RFID tags to producers and accredited veterinarians. A PIN will be necessary in order for a producer or accredited veterinarian to order tags. A PIN application is available on ODAFF AIS website as well as linked on USDA ADT website. RFID tag distribution records will be maintained in USDA Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS) and USAHerds. The ADT advisory group will work together to promote RFID technology and use within the state and to help ease the transition period with demonstrations and trainings.

#### 4.5 Information technology plan

ODAFF's budget has fluctuated for the last several years, but projected State of Oklahoma budget for FY2019 may improve slightly. When revenues and budgets improve in the near future, ODAFF AIS will invest in better information technology equipment and infrastructure. This may include RFID equipment and tags, software to assist in the submission of electronic forms, and additional data entry personnel to assist with CVI entry. However, there are no specifics per fiscal year.

#### 4.6 Resource requirements

Specific expertise or consultants are not needed that are not currently available. ODAFF has a continuity of operation plan (COOP) that is updated yearly. Automated data capture resources for paper CVIs are needed. ODAFF AIS has augmented this need with the use of Civet. However, priority is given to import CVIs with official identification. No additional space is needed.

#### 4.7 Organizational needs

No need for organizational change exists, and no additional resources can be leveraged within the current administrative structure.

##### 4.7.1 Executive support

No additional support from executive management is needed. Accountability is provided through monthly reports to the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture, ODAFF financial officers, and quarterly reports to USDA APHIS VS. Officials are briefed on progress and baseline measures of performance through quarterly reports.

##### 4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

Emergency preparedness resources are engaged or responded to through the Department of Homeland Security and Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Compatibility with other states and USDA APHIS VS is monitored through USAHerds and by informal conversation. Responsibilities for implementing this plan are assigned by the Oklahoma State Veterinarian. Disputes are arbitrated with all parties involved. Feedback is obtained relative to perception of successful implementation above and below the administrative authority by discussion with producer groups and industry associations. When administrators are replaced transition is achieved by the basic knowledge of programs from the remaining staff veterinarians.

#### 4.7.3 Policy

Budgetary restraints and hiring freezes have limited what is intended to be achieved with traceability. There is no need to address any specific mandates or to modify them to align with current goals and objectives.

#### 4.7.4 Staffing

Full-time, paid support staff is justified by need. ODAFF AIS has 2 temporary data entry personnel that are 100% dedicated to animal disease traceability; however, all staff works with traceability in one manner or another. The job requirements list the specific qualifications necessary. No additional human resources can be leveraged to assist in implementing this plan. Professional credentials and certifications are not an issue. Job descriptions for the roles needed are provided. Animal disease traceability information is a distinct function within the unit.

#### 4.7.5 Budget requirements

ODAFF AIS receives \$253,080 in federal funding for animal disease traceability and commits at least \$54,000 (20% of the cooperative agreement) from its own budget. ODAFF AIS insulates against budget cuts by cross-training employees and combining jobs. No other funding sources can be leveraged to support this plan.

#### 4.7.6 Outreach and Communication

##### 4.7.6.1. Accredited veterinarians

ODAFF AIS plans to inform accredited veterinarians of the new framework with ODAFF AIS emails and a webpage, Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association's (OVMA) newsletter, OVMA annual convention, and OVMA DVM Listserve. Continuing education is offered for accredited veterinarians regarding traceability at the OVMA's annual convention each year. ODAFF AIS and USDA APHIS VS have a full morning and afternoon each year dedicated to regulatory topics. To enhance the use of eCVIs and MIMS, ODAFF AIS demonstrates eCVIs and MIMS and provides information to veterinarians of these options to capture data automatically any time an opportunity presents itself at annual meetings and in person visits with accredited veterinarians. Accredited veterinarians are included in the plan for distribution of RFID tags.

##### 4.7.6.2. Livestock markets

Continuing education efforts will be planned with the Livestock Market Association of Oklahoma to address livestock market concerns. ODAFF AIS already receives all cattle identification data from livestock markets through VS Form 4-54s. During disease traces, the livestock markets are contacted to provide consignor and consignee information related to the backtag of record. ODAFF AIS has encouraged livestock market veterinarians to use eCVIs.

#### 4.7.6.3. Industry as a whole

The animal disease traceability advisory group will discuss the best methods for informing the industry of the implementation of this plan. This will likely include press releases, webpages, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service, ODAFF AIS emails, industry associations, and social media sources. The focus of this plan will be the cattle industry since official identification is adequate for other species in Oklahoma. Mandatory RFID tags are already required for transitional swine during official Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing. The value of a robust traceability system will be the focus of outreach efforts towards producers. ODAFF AIS would like to conduct table-top exercises provided by APHIS in cooperation with federal personnel to instill the need for traceability to minimize disease response impacts on the industry. Outreach for this plan will not be town-to-town, veterinarian, or livestock market based; so there should be no “under-served” communities. However, ODAFF AIS has multiple regional field personnel who are familiar with producers in their areas.

#### 4.8. Compliance and Enforcement of traceability regulations

ODAFF AIS in collaboration with the OK AVIC will determine processes to examine and report compliance of interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection and official identification requirements as defined in 9CFR Part 86. A priority for compliance will be to monitor accredited veterinarians and ensure accurate records of tags distributed and applied are in order. This is a critical activity as we move forward with promotion and adoption of RFID tags. ODAFF AIS will work cooperatively with the OK AVIC on ADT enforcement activities in particular when State regulations align with Federal regulations. Any compliance and/or enforcement activities will be documented on a quarterly basis and provided to the OK AVIC for inclusion into the VS quarterly ADT Enforcement Action summary Report.

### V. TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

#### 5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Maximizing the use of USAHerds
- New equipment for automated data capture and IT infrastructure
- Increase utilization of RFIDs by Oklahoma producers and accredited veterinarians
- Increase utilization of MIMS by accredited veterinarians
- Incentives and encouragement for accredited veterinarians and livestock markets submitting eCVIs.
- Additional data entry personnel to ensure ADT data remains current and timely
- All CVIs submitted in electronic format
- RFID tags used in all cattle requiring official identification

ODAFF believes that a phased-in approach is appropriate over a three year period and that various components are dependent upon measureable successes rather than defined time periods.

## 5.2 Implementation of objectives

FY 2019 – Increase use of eCVIs by Category 2 accredited veterinarians; promotion of RFID tags and readers during outreach activities; purchase RFID readers for use at livestock markets

FY 2020 – Majority of Category 2 accredited veterinarians and livestock markets utilize eCVIs; continue building traceability infrastructure for livestock markets; distribution of RFID tags

FY 2021 – continued use of RFID tags and utilization of MIMS; traceability infrastructure in place for livestock markets; all Category 2 accredited veterinarians utilizing eCVIs