ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY
ROAD MAP FOR
UTAH 2017

A Three-Year Plan

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Animal Industry Division Animal Health Program in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, since 2004, has been involved with the development of a more modern animal disease traceability system to replace the paper based system that relied on the receiving of disease reports and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) from private veterinarians within and outside Utah. Through the voluntary National Animal Identification System (NAIS), Utah has identified and issued premises numbers for a large number of livestock and poultry premises throughout Utah. To this date that number has reached > 15,440 premises. A number of RFID 840 tags were issued to veterinarians and producers over the years and we handed out the last of initial tags this year. We have also distributed a number of UHF official individual animal identification tags.

Utah implemented an online animal entry permit system in 2012 that allowed private veterinarians to receive an entry permit anytime via the internet. This system allowed us to review, approve, deny, attach files, make comments, report totals, etc. It has decreased the number of after hour calls that we receive considerably. This system has now been replaced by USAHERDS.

In 2013 we put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive software program that could accept electronic health certificates, electronic lab data, allow UDAF employees to issue electronic Brand Inspection certificates, work with our elk program, allow electronic import permits, track issued tags, and a variety of other functions. Computer Aid, Inc./USAHERDS won the bid and the system was installed and went live in November 2014.

We have, and will continue to, purchase RFID wands to provide for our market veterinarians, brand inspectors, and private veterinarians who are on the leading edge of using RFID tags. We successfully applied for grant money from our department of emergency management to purchase RFID tags to provide at no cost to the producers and/or veterinarians.

We have installed a UHF RFID system at one of our larger livestock markets as well as a large private ranch in the spring of 2016 to evaluate the efficiency of this system. This will allow the market veterinarian to more easily and accurately list individual IDs on CVIs on animals leaving the market for other states.

In February 2015 we hired a data entry specialist to begin entering data into the USAHERDS system including Brucellosis vaccinations and testing, TB testing, disease incident data, as well as individual animal IDs from CVIs. A considerable amount of data entry has been performed over the past year, including keeping up with the current workload in many areas and reducing the backlog of files waiting input.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION
2.1 Who are we?
The Animal Industry Division (Division) Animal Health Program (Program) in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (Department) has the responsibility to implement any animal disease traceability system for the State of Utah. The livestock producers and veterinary practitioners in the State of Utah are our primary constituents and our external constituents are the national livestock industry as well as USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services and consumer groups.

Our jurisdiction includes the boundaries of the State of Utah excluding the tribal lands of the Ute, Navajo, Goshute, and Piute nations. With the exception of the Deep Creek Goshute and Navajo tribal lands, all tribal lands are within the borders of the state.

All traceability data is used internally by the Division to aid in disease investigations. Data is shared with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services as needed.

Insuring the privacy of data collected has to be the primary goal in the animal disease traceability system. The information collected should be accurate and free from duplication. It is essential that the system has the capability to be rapidly updated and that information extraction is user friendly.

Future needs revolve around the ability to transfer data in its various forms from software and paper sources seamlessly into USAHERDS in useable data sets. Also we are pursuing a robust geographical information system to geocode, plot and develop interactive maps for our premises data.

2.2 Where are we now?
Currently, the animal disease traceability system in Utah still includes mainly paper copies of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) that have been sent to Utah by other states or private veterinarians. It also consists mostly of paper copies of brucellosis and TB forms. We now have the capability to capture data into our USAHERDS system. This can be done completely electronically when we receive compatible files; otherwise it needs to be transcribed into the system. We have been sending copies of CVIs to other states electronically for some time. Other states have migrated to electronic CVI transfer into our State instead of paper copies. We have set up a special e-mail address to streamline expedite that process on our end that is sent to other states that have adopted that method of transfer.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses
Strengths: We have a large number of premises IDs issued. USAHERDS will allow us to continue to issue premises IDs and we will use the Data Management Center (DMC) to obtain premises IDs when USAHERDS cannot verify/validate addresses. Utah has ADT code and rules in place. Title 4 Chapter 31 Section 118 gives UDAF authority to make state rules to be compliant with federal ADT rules. It also gives UDAF authority to enforce ADT rules. R58-1-3 outlines the department ADT rules.

We successfully applied for some one time money ($10,000) from our division of emergency management to purchase electronic ID for distribution at no cost to veterinarians. We have also successfully applied for another one time funding ($10,000) from the same division to fund exercises revolving around the identification and testing of wild and tribal horses being gathered from private and reservation lands. This has allowed us to test over 700 horses with identification captured on equine infectious anemia test forms for these animals.

We have written an adult brucellosis vaccination plan for one livestock owner to vaccinate and move his herd by commuter permit to Idaho. Two of the provisions in the plan require the owner to calfhood vaccinate and apply permanent identification to his calves from this point onward as well as apply UHF permanent 840 tags to the adult vaccinates. This will serve as the model for future requests for adult herd vaccinations.

Weaknesses: Long term funding: Utah is relying nearly 100% on federal funding to run our ADT program.

We are still receiving limited opposition from livestock owners and a few livestock market owners in regards to the ADT rules. We put together a working group in an attempt to get more industry cooperation. While consensus was reached with the working group, as is sometimes the case, once the information reached a broader audience it received increased criticism. USDA/APHIS/VS personnel are assisting division employees in getting livestock markets signed up to be tagging distribution sites. We currently have 2 of 5 livestock markets signed up to be tagging sites.

2.4 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The Animal Industry Division has six components:

- Meat and Poultry Inspection Program
- Livestock Identification Bureau
- Animal Health Program
- Elk Farming and Elk Hunting Parks
- Fish Health (Aquaculture) Program
- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories
III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement
The Animal Health Program in the Animal Industry Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, is committed to reaching and exceeding federal animal disease traceability requirements.

3.2 Mission Statement
The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food’s current mission statement is: Promote the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserve our natural resources and protect our food supply.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)
Develop and implement a State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State, Tribe, Territory and USDA standards.

4.2 Programmatic goals (Objectives)

a. Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms. For any animal disease traceability program to work it will require the cooperation of the individual producer to submit location and animal identification information and for the private veterinarian to timely submit required forms. Our Division has produced and implemented outreach messaging to these groups under the old NAIS program. Recently we addressed our large animal practitioners in six meetings held across the state in the use of electronic CVIs, the use of RFID technology and problems we have encountered with submitted CVIs in the past year.

b. Monitor CVI data quality
   The Division personnel will continue to monitor CVI data quality.

c. Input data into appropriate systems
   Data will be entered into USAHERDS as needed.

d. Improve retrieval of available traceability information
   The more information that we are able to get into electronic form the greater will be the potential for retrieval. Our ultimate goal is to have all data retrievable.
e. Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States / Tribes / Territories and USDA when needed.
   USAHERDS is the most utilized program in the nation. This will allow us the best possibility for compatible standards. We are also working with USDA to develop the ability to share data between their databases and USAHERDS. We have recently allowed USDA APHIS VS animal identification coordinator access to enter brucellosis test and vaccination data into USAHERDS.

f. Integrate surveillance and traceability data
   USAHERDS allows the integration of surveillance and traceability data and is, in fact, one of its most attractive features.

g. Establish advisory committee
   Utah has established an Animal Health Advisory Committee which is also looking at how to integrate ADT standards.

h. Establish authority
   The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has been given authority to write rules for Animal Disease Traceability. (Title 4, Chapter 31, Section 118)

i. Develop policy
   The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has established rules for ADT. (R-58-1-3)

j. Enhance IT infrastructure
   USAHERDS is hosted by Computer Aid, Inc. This provides for rapid and efficient alterations to the program when needed.

k. Establish and/or update tag distribution record system
   USAHERDS tracks all tags that we distribute. UDAF distributes the following types of tags to locations with a premises ID:
   i. NUES
   ii. 840 RFID brucellosis tags
   iii. 840 RFID elk tags
   iv. 840 RFID individual identification tags
   v. 840 UHF RFID panel tags

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures

a. Objective 1: Maintain current animal disease traceability infrastructure
   The current animal disease traceability infrastructure will be maintained and built upon in successive years dependent on funding.
b. Objective 2: Establish objective assessment of animal disease traceability by providing baseline measures and projected advancements during the funding period by using the following four performance standard measures:
   i. Time to report to the State/Tribe of official tagging / identifying an animal in question that has moved interstate,
   ii. Time for the State/Tribe of first officially tagging / identifying an animal in question that has moved interstate to provide a record of the official tag distribution,
   iii. Time to report to the State/Tribe from which an animal in question has moved interstate, and
   iv. Time for the State/Tribe from which an animal in question has moved interstate to provide the location and contact information from which the animal was moved interstate.

c. Objective 3: 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 tests. Increase our ability to enter captive cervid elk farms and hunting preserves individual animal identification inventory data.

d. Objective 4 – Build a robust geospatial information system (GIS) within the Animal Health Program and other Programs within the Animal Industry Division to further our ability to geocode and map our premises for use with interactive mapping for disease traceability and response to possible outbreaks.
   i. Coordinate assets and capabilities with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food’s GIS Coordinator to provide geocoding and mapping to our ranch and farm premises in Utah.
   ii. Provide training to key personnel in the Animal Health Program and our other Programs to learn to build and manipulate interactive mapping for our elk, cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry populations within Utah.
   iii. Provide training to key personnel within the Animal Industry Division to build story maps and interactive maps for tracking and publishing disease event information and updates on our website.

e. Objective 5: Implement an outreach plan for accredited veterinarians and livestock markets 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.

This objective will be accomplished by requiring the timely submission of certificates of veterinary inspection by accredited veterinarians by:

i. Writing letters to accredited veterinarians when the certificates of veterinary inspection are received later than 7 days from date of signature.

ii. A letter will be sent to the accredited veterinarian by the individual reviewing the certificates of veterinary inspection when a certificate is received over two weeks past the date of signature.

iii. Outreach seminars will be hosted by the division to train accredited veterinarians on accurate completion and timely submission of certificates of veterinary inspection and other forms. Training will also be provided to accredited veterinarians and producers on the requirements in the federal rule.

4.4 Data requirements

a. Fully describe standards to be used for location identification, if used
   i. The standards used are those which were created by the USDA under the NAIS system and will not change in the near future.

b. 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
   i. Utah has developed Memorandums of Understanding with 5 other states (Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming) to allow the importation of officially identified animals with a brand inspection as long as the animals are moving from the farm of origin and have only 1 brand.
   ii. Utah will allow the distribution of NUES tags direct to producers who sign an agreement to keep records for 5 years.

c. What tag distribution record keeping systems will be used?
   USAHERDS tracks tags that are distributed.

d. What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?
   i. Brucellosis vaccination status of cattle in herd
   ii. Negative trichomoniasis test results for all bulls
e. What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to CVIs?
   i. NPIP 9-3 forms
   ii. Owner / Shipper Statement to be used in appropriate situations

f. How and when will data be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA?
   i. CVIs generated in Utah will be sent to destination states weekly.
   ii. A MOU will be signed with USDA to determine which other data will be shared between UDAF and USDA.

4.5 Information technology plan
a. UDAF is utilizing USAHERDS with servers hosted by Computer Aid, Inc. Veterinarians can obtain entry permits online or by calling our permit line (801-538-7164). Electronic CVIs can be imported into USAHERDS. Paper CVIs are currently being transcribed into USAHERDS. Brucellosis and TB reports (vacc/tests) are being entered into USAHERDS. Reportable testing data has started to be automatically downloaded into USAHERDS from the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL), with some modifications with Vetstar, the current laboratory information management system.

4.6 Resource requirements
a. A data entry person
b. Hosting funds for USAHERDS

4.7 Organizational needs
a. Executive support
   i. The current administration of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food realize that an animal disease traceability system will benefit the livestock and poultry industries of Utah as long as it does not adversely affect the producers’ ability to make a profit.

b. Coordination and oversight procedures
   i. The Animal Industry Division in the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will coordinate and oversee any animal disease traceability system in the State of Utah.

c. Policy
   i. Rules are in place

d. Staffing
   i. Staffing in the Division will remain the same with the exception of a data entry position that will be added dependent on acquiring the needed funding. The need for additional data entry personnel will continually be evaluated.
e. Budget requirements
   i. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has successfully
      lobbied the legislature to provide funding for the installation of
      USAHERDS. The department will need funding through
      cooperative agreements for data entry personnel and maintenance
      agreements. The Department is in the process of seeking options to
      obtain USALIMS that will fully integrate with USAHERDS.

f. Outreach
   i. Continuing education will be provided to accredited veterinarians
      in the area of ADT, proper submission of CVIs, and electronic
      health certificates.
   ii. Outreach to livestock and market owners concerning ADT will
      continue at various producer meetings and private visits.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

a. All CVIs will be monitored as they are received by the Division for
   completeness and accuracy. The veterinarian and the State of origination
   will receive a letter listing those errors found.