

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR WEST VIRGINIA

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

JAYME C. ZIRKLE

**ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY COORDINATOR
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
CHARLESTON WV 25305
304-644-7361
[SIGNATURE] _____**

Submitted to:

**BARRY J. MEADE, DVM
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR WV
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**920 MAIN CAMPUS DRIVE STE 200
RALEIGH, NC 27606
919-855-7700**

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Traceability is essential to ensuring healthy livestock populations by the capability to efficiently and effectively identify, track, control, and eradicate livestock diseases in West Virginia. The previous and continued work of all involved in the Animal Disease Traceability program will insure this program continues on a successful path in WV. This ADT roadmap is a continuation and revision of the previous 2015-2018 ADT Roadmap as traceability continues to evolve.

It is imperative that we continue the education of West Virginia producers on the requirements of the Animal Disease Traceability rule. We are continuing with education and outreach, the distribution of official identification tags, data sharing, and monitoring and reporting interstate movement. We benefit from these factors in a quicker response to controlled diseases and a faster normalization of industry and commerce. This plan builds upon previous efforts by the USDA VS information systems for traceability, premises numbers, and official identification.

WVDA utilizes an electronic database of tags on the AIMs system and keeps all records on a share drive, which in part helps us to respond quicker to request from other states and the USDA. WVDA has relied heavily on the USDA cooperative agreement funding to fulfill and achieve the progress that has been made so far in WV with traceability. WVDA AH is committed to continuing with ADT work as funding allows.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

This road map is prepared and implemented by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division (WVDA AH). WVDA AH works alongside the WV Extension service by realizing their ability to have day to day contact with producers for outreach and education. WVDA AH uses traceability data for disease traces and lost or stolen animal inquiries, etc. Industry protection and the maintenance of animal movement and commerce continue to guide the program in WV.

2.2 Where are we now?

WVDA AH has been defined as a combination of cross-cut and stand alone programs. We are combined in animal health with our tagging, market inspections, monitoring of slaughter animals, and vaccinations, but we stand alone in our Premise ID work. Currently we are utilizing the four traceability standards defined by USDA APHIS VS to measure traceability capabilities. Since October of 2012, WVDA AHT's have been tagging breeding cattle, all dairy cattle in our WV markets, and slaughter cattle in certain markets which has resulted in approximately 57,966 cattle tagged or official ID recorded in the markets alone. We have begun to require ID in all state and production sales along with the markets. All information is collected by our Animal Health inspectors with tablets, and sent to the ADTC, who then transfers all the information onto USDA's AIMS. We currently have a goal of performing two traces a quarter. These traces are selected by USDA VS personnel and recorded in EMRS2. The ADTC also performs in house traces on our livestock markets by selecting an animal that is already officially identified and tracing buyer/seller information. We will also review the yearly summary from USDA on trace exercises to identify areas to improve key tracing indicators.

The ADTC currently coordinates all activities with other agencies on an individual basis. We have regular communication with individuals within WVDA, the WVU Extension service, and the USDA. Currently, the technology available revolves around USAHERDS, SPIS, AIMS, and USALIMS. We currently use tablets in 7 of our 8 livestock markets for data capture and tracking. We also have several PDA and datalogger systems available at our disposal for data capture. We are placing efforts in the future to expand our ICVI database with focus on electronic records.

Currently, there is no independent state funding for the ADT program, other than WV state funding for the purchase of RFID 840 tags. There is no guarantee on the duration of this state funding due to continued budgetary constraints. Accordingly, WV Animal Disease Traceability programs rely almost exclusively on federal funding for outreach efforts, technology advancements, travel, etc. Without the continued support from the USDA, WV Animal Disease traceability advancement would not be possible.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Our strengths include having a small state with an extremely friendly producer population that traditionally view the WVDA and the WVU extension service as helpful and supportive organizations. In addition, we recognize our weakness and are working to improve upon them. We may be lacking in personnel, but the people we have understand the requirements and have a determination to help the producers in WV thrive. We currently have 90% of our premises registered and have been updating them with current 911 addresses. We are fortunate to have field staff with tablets for tagging and data collection in 7 of our 8 regular livestock markets in WV. Each animal health inspector has a PDA and wand for disease work in the field. These devices help with electronic storage of ID's within WV. This allows us to respond to request for information quicker. Even with such a small staff, we continue to present a large amount of outreach and education to the producers of WV on tagging requirements and the encouragement of using RFID technology for official identification. WVDA AH has been able to encourage the usage of RFID 840 tags for official identification with our producers, production sales, and county fairs over the years. We have even tagged all of our WVDA breeding cattle on our state farms with RFID 840 tags for better record keeping.

Our weaknesses continue to be lack of funding and personnel. We need both of these to update our ICVI database, which is a limiting factor in trace time. We currently file all ICVI's in paper form so any records search has to be done manually. We are trying to update this system but with limited funding and support personnel we are challenged. Limited personnel and employee turnover also create an obstacle in outreach, education, tagging, and support to the producers of WV.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

There are many opportunities for the parties involved to use Animal Disease Traceability programs in WV. To achieve this, our plan includes tagging breeding age animals offered for public sale in order to develop and maintain a database on animals moving within, into, and outside WV. Currently, we tag the animals during routine inspection and palpation while they are already in the chute. Data collection includes information on age, color, Back Tag ID number, RFID number and age gestation if they are bred females. That information is then provided to the stockyard the animal will be sold through. Current state funding deficits are partially the result of lack of information available in a database to support the need for additional animal health & safety

programs within the state. A successful Animal Diseases Traceability program would provide this necessary information and open boundless opportunities for not only helpful and necessary government programs, but individual consumer programs as well.

WV currently has no specific standards, but does identify public livestock markets as being at high risk for the transportation of animal diseases through animal movement. We believe by tagging these animals in the market we will be able to better trace them in the instance of an outbreak and it allows the producers to become better exposed to RFID tags and their usage.

In the event of an agricultural incident/emergency/disease outbreak, WVDA has developed an Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is activated to manage any type of agriculture incident/emergency. The IMT operates within the structure of the Incident Command System (ICS). The IMT has three people identified for each of the Command and Staff positions in addition to personnel to fill other operational components. The IMT participates in various types of training opportunities. In addition to personnel, WVDA has trucks/trailers, equipment and supplies available to respond to incidents. The WVDA has taken a proactive approach to informing and educating the public regarding what bio-security measures to follow. The ADTC has participated in IMT training through the WVDA and is listed in the WVDA IMT structure as a Case Manager. Information made available with a fully functioning Animal Diseases Traceability program would add much needed information to the database in this area.

Currently, it is possible to search our paper based CVI system within a reasonable time of receiving a request. However, results of this system are mixed. Not from a standpoint of our ability to search, but by the receipt of CVI's from the veterinarian of origin. Our main weakness is when a CVI has not been forwarded to us by the veterinarian. This problem affects both incoming and outgoing certificates. The WVDA maintains normal office hours with a 24/7 emergency line. Several personnel within the Animal Health Division are available to respond to emergency calls, as well as, the ADTC if necessary.

Ultimately, an electronically maintained database system would be in place to more effectively and efficiently identify, isolate, and control animal diseases in WV. However, in the absence of funding for this system, WV continues to move forward with a workable plan regarding animal diseases in WV as best it can.

The plan outlined in this document will undoubtedly avoid consequences of potential threats by making available through electronically maintained database animal disease information that was not available in any form in the absence of the recently initiated Animal Identification program.

Currently available resources are being utilized to their maximum capacity. However, the plan does incorporate more effective approaches to utilizing additional resources should they become available.

Have previous efforts to coordinate with other entities within the applicant's boundaries, and outside the applicant's boundaries, been complicated or unavailable for not having this plan in place? Yes. Prior to development and initial implementation of the WV Animal Diseases Traceability program, efforts to provide animal identification, and ultimately traceability, have been mostly unavailable.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

Since October of 2012, WVDA Animal Health Inspectors have been tagging breeding cattle and all Dairy cattle in our WV markets, which has resulted in approximately 57,966 cattle tagged or official ID recorded in the markets alone. All information is collected by our Animal Health inspectors previously with livestock loggers and now more recently with tablets, and sent to the ADTC, who then transfers all the information onto USDA's AIMS. Records of all tags issued by the WVDA will be kept in a database. Vaccination tags, either NUES or electronic, are currently being used and are distributed to veterinarians. We have begun to require ID in all state and production sales along with the markets.

Human resources: Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator with the assistance of the WV State Veterinarian.

Space: Sufficient facilities are available for additional personnel and all necessary equipment.

Connectivity: All WVDA AH inspectors and the ADTC have tablets, wands, laptops, I-phones, access to a PDA, and have been trained on radios.

USDA Resources: USAHERDS, AIMS, EMRS2

Organization of paper records: We have a filing system in place for ICVI's, quarterly reports, market bulletins, and testing records. All ADT information is currently being stored on a Share Drive. We also utilize SPRS, USAHERDS. AIMS is used for all tags distributed to producers and applied in livestock markets.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The mission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is to protect plant, animal and human health and the state's food supply through a variety of scientific and regulatory programs; to provide vision, strategic planning and emergency response for agricultural and other civil emergencies; to promote industrial safety and protect consumers through educational and regulatory programs; and to foster economic growth by promoting West Virginia agriculture and agribusinesses throughout the state and abroad.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the Animal Health Program is to enforce certain Agriculture laws and the regulations legally promulgated in carrying out the mandates of the laws. The charge is to prevent, suppress, and control any communicable diseases of animals or poultry.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

West Virginia's goal is to develop and implement a State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State and USDA standards in order to ensure the health and safety of the livestock population.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging regarding data quality and processing for animal health information forms
- Monitor ICVI data quality
- Input data into appropriate systems in a timely fashion

- Improve retrieval of available traceability information
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States and USDA when needed
- Integrate surveillance and traceability data
- Establish advisory committee
- Establish authority
- Develop policy
- Expand staffing for program
- Develop and implement Producer Education Program
- Enhance IT infrastructure
- Increased usage of eCVIs by veterinarians

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures (required)

Currently, traceability capability is measured by the four performance standards defined by USDA APHIS VS. Traces completed for the four performance standards thus far have been adequate and are now recorded in EMRS2.

4.4 Data requirements

Premise identification shall follow standards set by the USDA VS and SPIS. USA Herds software shall allocate location identification. WVDA has decided to apply electronic official identification in all intact breeding animals 18 months and older as they enter our markets. We will also supply veterinarians with electronic identification in the form of OCV RFID tags. We encourage RFID OCV tags, but we still give them the choice to use NUES tags. In order to encourage upgraded traceability technology, we will provide producers with 25 RFID tags per calendar year or NUES tags if they prefer. This includes not only cattle producers, but also captive cervid and swine producers. Tags will be distributed out of the WVDA AH office in Charleston. Tags will be recorded along with the Premise ID before shipment. WVDA then enters all tags into the AIM's system. Commuter herds must have a MOU between states. Owner shipper statements are approved for interstate movement on animals traveling to an approved livestock market. Traceability data will be shared upon request with USDA APHIS VS and other states.

4.5 Information technology plan

WVDA has PDA technology for use in the ADT program. We use these to collect data on site and import that data into the federal database. We are utilizing USA Herds for data entry as well. WVDA also utilizes tablets with the MobileID for livestock application in each of its markets to record and import data to the AIMs system.

4.6 Resource requirements

WVDA has identified electronic ICVI records as an area within ADT that needs upgrading. This has been a challenge for us due to limited staffing and funding. WVDA uses USAHerds and is committed to utilizing this program more for ICVI data

capture. Funding has been allotted for FY2018 for staff training on USAHerds in hopes to begin ICVI electronic records and transfer from other ICVI databases.

4.7 Organizational needs

- Does a need for organizational change exist? Is it recognized? No.
- Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure? No.

4.7.1 Executive support

- WVDA Executive Staff are kept apprised of ADT regulations and staff work through communications via the State Vet or ADTC.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- The ADT program in WV is primarily handled by the ADTC and State Veterinarian. Support staff include the animal health inspectors and supervisor, office assistant, and program data analyst. These staff work together daily and communicate regularly. Staff keep up to date on emergency preparedness and biosecurity through training offered through WVDA.

4.7.3 Policy

- Some states have required electronic submissions for ICVI's.
- This would align by allowing ease of import into databases for traceability.
- This would limit WV because our current veterinary demographic are non tech savvy practioners.
- We can encourage and educate practioners on ICVI electronic submission platforms without immediately mandating it. How do existing mandates assist, limit, or modify what is intended to be achieved?

4.7.4 Staffing

- The ADT program in WV is a distinct function for the Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator. Support staff include the State Veterinarian, animal health inspectors, office assistant, lab assistant, and program analyst.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- The Animal Disease Traceability program in WV is funded almost exclusively from the USDA ADT Cooperative Agreement, except for some state funding allotted for the purchase of RFID official ID tags to be used in the livestock markets and for producers/veterinarians in the state.
- FY 2018 proposed budget of \$11,924. An estimate for FY 2019 and 2020 would be for the same amounts.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1. Accredited veterinarians

- Accredited veterinarians in WV are provided with either RFID OCV tags or NUES OCV tags if requested by the WVDA. They are provided with a hardcopy spreadsheet to record tag records on to also be sent back to WVDA for record keeping.
- Each veterinarian that submits an ICVI into our office that is non-compliant receives a letter back stating the nature of the non-compliance. Repeat offenders receive a phone call or referred to the USDA. Will work in cooperation with Assistant Director (AVIC) to address these compliance issues.
- Accredited veterinarians are notified of any changes to ADT rule through communication from WV State Veterinarian. Future plans include notification and encouragement of using electronic methods of ICVI's rather than traditional paper copies.
- Often accredited veterinarians serve as a source of outreach to their clients on official identification and the ADTC receives many requests for RFID 840 tags this way.
- The ADTC has been able to assist accredited veterinarians with field work utilizing a wand and PDA to capture RFID tags. This has allowed for the education on technology and encouraged many large-scale producers to utilize RFID 840 tags in their herd management.

4.7.6.2. Livestock markets

- ADTC attends yearly required Livestock Market Meeting with market owners, LMA staff, P&S representation, USDA, etc. to update markets of any changes or concerns with ADT. ADTC also visits markets on an as needed basis or when time permits. WVDA AH inspectors are present on sale days each week to interact with sale owners, management, and producers. Our AH inspectors are also currently doing the tagging in 7 of our 8 livestock markets. These tagging records are provided to both

the ADTC and the markets. Plans are being made to eventually transition the tagging over from our inspectors to the livestock markets due to staffing and budget concerns.

4.7.6.3. Industry as a whole

- The agriculture industry in WV is informed of ADT regulations and changes through education and outreach through the ADTC and AH field staff. Outreach is presented through various meetings during the year. Fair board meetings, WV Fairs & Festivals Association meeting, extension dinner meetings, WV State Fair planning meetings, production sale meetings, WV Agriculture Day at the State Capitol during the annual legislative session, and bull test meetings are just a few examples. Information sharing with the WV Extension service allows for broader outreach as they deal with producers on a day to day basis. Articles are published as needed in the statewide WVDA Market Bulletin highlighting ADT regulations and changes. The WVDA website includes ADT information. The WV State Veterinarian communicates with accredited veterinarians in the state and can provide up to date ADT information to this agriculture sector.

4.8. Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

The ADTC and an office assistant monitor the incoming and outgoing ICVI's for compliance. The office assistant keeps record of the number of animal shipments moved interstate in a spreadsheet.

V TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

1. Education & outreach
2. RFID 840 tags
3. Record Keeping

5.2 Implementation of objectives

1. WVDA plans to continue with education and outreach to producers and agriculture groups throughout WV, especially as new changes could take place within the ADT program.
2. WVDA will continue encouraging the usage of RFID 840 tags for official identification over the traditional “NUES” tags. We hope to continue to distribute RFID tags to producers along with OCV RFID tags to veterinarians, if the funding is available.
3. WVDA plans to begin training to turn tagging and record keeping over from our staff to the livestock market staff. This objective will require a phased in approach and will not occur in a short period of time.
4. WVDA plans to move forward with staff training on better electronic records within USAHerds and began to keep electronic ICVI records over our hard copy records of the past.
5. WVDA plans to encourage the usage of electronic ICVI methods with our accredited veterinarians in the state.