

Animal ID Council Report

2013 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, April 17, 2013



The Animal ID Council met on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the 2013 NIAA Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky with about 62 people present. Mr. Victor Velez and Dr. Robert Fourdraine served as Co-Chairs.

The council session focused on Animal Disease Traceability Framework.

Mr. Neil Hammerschmidt, Manager, Animal Disease Traceability, *USDA/APHIS/VS*, presented “USDA Update on Animal Disease Traceability”

- Discussed how the current rule is a step to build on and how the principles that were laid down will help the dialogue with the states and tribes to implement.
- USDA looked at traceability programs and other countries systems but recognized that each country is unique.
- An ADT principle is to minimize burden to producers and differs from NAIS on reporting movements.
- ADT has two main components, animal id and ICVI but states have flexibility on using other documents. This is the first time USDA defines an ICVI and what must be included in the document.
- His presentations focused on what constitutes an official id with emphasis on cattle since this species are the top priority.
- Official ids must be tamper evident and have an official NEUS or AIN number (includes American ID and manufacturer coded RFID tags), the US shield or the state two letter postal code for tags can be used to indicate it is an approved USDA official ID tags.
- Only tags with a NEUS or 840 AIN number will be considered if applied after March 2015.
- Official IDs are NUES (silver brite and brucellosis vaccination), AIN, and premises-based ID. The NEUS number has also been printed on plastic tags for swine)
- USDA will not require retagging of animals with manufacturer code tags and American ID tags and expect those will leave the system over time.
- The focus right now is in education and outreach but USDA is not sure when the enforcement will start.

Dr. Andy Swartz, *Texas Animal Health Commission*; and Dr. Tony Frazier, *Alabama State Veterinarian*; and Dr. Keith Roehr, *Colorado State Veterinarian* presented “State Animal Disease Traceability Update”

Dr. Andy Schwartz, *Texas*

- State traceability rule is based on brucellosis testing since they used to test 2.5 million at livestock markets but the testing has stopped.
- Initial draft rule was only for markets but expanded to all change of ownership.
- There will be change in the future to allow cattle to go to slaughter with a backtag, but markets will insure they do go to slaughter.
- Allow to use all existing ICVI and may develop one in house (PDF – based)
- Do not require reporting of tagging but ask producers to keep records.

Dr. Tony Frazier, Alabama

- Develop rule since they do not test for brucellosis.
- The beef industry approach Alabama Animal health officials and both worked with a state id group to develop an intrastate rule based on USDA's rule.
- All beef over 18 months, all female dairy, and show animals must be identified when changing ownership.
- Exemptions include cattle moving directly to slaughter, commuter herds, and dairy bull calves.
- The rule will be enforced when possible.
- Developed a simple brochure
- It will not force markets to tag cattle but currently all do with the exception of one
- Distributed over 100,000 tags last year and from January to today over 45,000 to over 9,000 premises.
- Do not require reporting of tagging but ask producers to keep records.

Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado

- The initial focus has been on outreach meeting with all 18 livestock markets.
- Markets are responding by providing outreach to producers and the Colorado Cattle Association also send info to members
- Developed a brochure on official ids but focus on 840 tags
- They have also developed an electronic ICVI working with Kansas and several states and are working with Texas A&M for a free app ICVI.
- Has implemented Location Based Identification numbers and submitted to USDA's premises repository.
- There is USAHA's standards subcommittee working on data exchange standards and defining ICVI's Data Elements for paper.

Industry Panel*Karen Jordan and Adam Griffin - Dairy*

- Traceability is very important and the dairy sector has been using id for management and genetics for a long time.
- World Dairy Expo will only accept 840 tags, manufacturer coded RFID tags and Canadian official id.
- An issue of concern is the recording of a NEUS id number that was issued previously.
- Still getting questions about which type of tags can be used as official identification.

Carl Heckendorf - Equine

- Not much changed since the Coggins documents will meet the requirements.
- Industry should look to using microchips.

John Stevenson - Beef

- Livestock markets are a big part of the process.
- Rodeo and exhibition are an unknown as implementation developed
- Dairy steers are also a concern. He mentioned a producer sending a shipment of steers and two thirds had lost the eartags due to infections or improper tagging.

Ray Hilburn - Poultry

- Alabama has mostly commercial poultry and they move as group (all in and all out) and participate in the NPIP.
- Most show birds and "athletes" are id with wing bands.

- Birds being taken to game preserves, swap-meet and flea markets maybe the most complex and encourage a dialog with them.

Patrick Webb – Swine

- The pork industry is pleased that the rule is out which help bring finality to some swine producers that were unclear to participate.
- The PIN is a number that is used throughout the industry for different purposes and will like to have all states to allow producers the use the PIN.
- Working with packers to require the PIN-based tags to pigs going to slaughter and two packers already on board. Over 2 million already purchased.
- Working on targeting surveillance on feral swine.
- They will start using the PIN for business purposes such lab submissions, production records, animal health, etc.

Kristen Parmen – Livestock Markets

- A main concern is outreach and livestock markets are an excellent venue for this. However, the message should go to all producers and should be consistent.
- They are struggling with communication messaging not being consistent and with the interpretation of the rule in some states.
- LMA would like producers to have easy access to tags and since some states don't allow producers to directly receive tags, they would like those states to reconsider. They have concerns about cost when a veterinarian is the only person that can apply the tags.
- The more tags are applied before they reach the markets the least risk for injury, shrinkage, etc.
- They would also like consistency in movement documentation such as owner-shipment statement, and to simplify what is required.
- Markets are getting questions from producers about who will have access to consignment sheets.
- Dairy steers are a concern, especially where for religious issues animals are not tagged.
- Markets are pleased that backtags can be used to go slaughter and that dairy steers don't have to be written in the official documents.
- Only 60-70% livestock markets have software for record keeping.

Dr. Paul Kohrs, Washington State Department of Agriculture, presented "Cattle Imports and Exports: Traceability Issues"

- It is developing an animal tracking database that will include official id, animal movement (brands), livestock inspection, entry permits, and tag distribution. Currently, close to 400 k cattle are linked to 42,000 official forms.
- It has developed a web-based permit system for cattle going to slaughter and it will expand to other cattle in the future.
- Challenges include lack of tangible or perceived value, political climate.

Mr. David Moss, Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Traceability Solutions Ltd (ITS Global), presented "Animal Disease Management Systems, a Practical Solution"

- The company does work in the UK, Australia and Canada.
- In Canada keeps 50 % traceability info.

Dr. Craig Carter, Director/Professor, *Department of Veterinary Science, University of Kentucky*, presented "Continuous Animal Health Monitoring"

- It obtained Homeland Security funds to develop a non-invasive & inexpensive animal monitoring that can distinguish a sick animal from a healthy one.
- It uses a RF transmitter/receiver that provides real-health data and generates medical intervention.
- Completed two trails 2010 & 2011 and are planning a feedlot trial.
- The trials achieve 80 % sensitivity and provisional patent was filed in 2013.
- The monitoring is based on the animal's activities.

Old Business:

Three resolutions were amended to reflect current status of ADT:

Resolution ID1: Motion – Michael Coe Second David Hemichovich

Resolution ID2: Motion – Michael Coe Second David Scarf

Resolution ID3: Motion – Michael Coe Second David Hemichovich

New Business: None

General Discussion: None

Council Session adjourned at 12:00 p.m.