

**Animal Identification & Information Systems
Council Report**

2017 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, April 5, 2017



The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the 2017 NIAA Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, with approximately 57 people present. Dr. Boyd Parr and Mr. Robert Fourdraine served as Co-Chairs.

The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council session focused on Implementation of the USDA ADT Framework and how traceability relates to Trade opportunities. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to ADT and Trade opportunities:

Dr. Sunny Geiser-Novotny – Cattle Health Staff / Animal Disease Traceability Veterinarian, presented on “APHIS VS Vision/Assessment/Priority for ADT/USDA Update on Stats on ADT”

Marie-Christine Talbot, National and International Development, Agri-Tracibility International, presented on “Traceability & Trade – Implications/Opportunities”

Dr. Carl Heckendorf – Livestock Disease and Animal health Veterinarian, Colorado Department of Agriculture, presented on “NIAA & USAHA Equine Forum Update”

Mr. Michael McGrath – Director, TraceFirst, presented on “Interstatelivestock.com website Progress & Update”

Panel Discussion: “Disease Traceability Update – What have we learned? Challenges? Opportunities? Next Steps?”

- Cattle – Mr. John Saunders, CEO & Chairman –Where Food Comes From, Inc.
- Swine – Mr. Bryan Black, Past President – National Pork Producers
- Small Ruminant – Dr. Jim Logan, State Veterinarian, Wyoming Livestock Board
- Livestock Market – Mr. Mike Bumgarner, President & CEO, United Producers
- State Veterinarian/ID Coordinator – Dr. Charles Hatcher, State Veterinarian, Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

One new resolution was presented and approved, no prior resolutions were sunset, removed or amended

Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development

- 1) USDA gave a positive progress report on ADT, however recognized that further improvements are still needed, investments in developing electronic input mechanisms

are key to limit the amount of labor needed to enter data, improve accuracy, and speed up the traceability process. Upcoming USDA input sessions will collect feedback on ADT specific to cattle. A conference is planned for September 2017.

- 2) The province of Quebec has leveraged the traceability system to increase market opportunity of Quebec livestock products and has used it to build a strong brand for the purpose of gaining consumer confidence in the products produced in Quebec.
- 3) The interstatelivestock.com website has been completed and other species were added in the past year. States need to work with Tracefirst to update import regulations, or the website will not be current and as a results will find limited use. More outreach efforts need to take place to increase the use of accredited veterinarians.
- 4) The equine industry is moving forward with electronic ID as a means to identify horses, equine industry is more comfortable with the use of manufacturer coded RFID tags and a distributed database model to protect the data. Requests for ID records would be approved by the “keeper” of the data.
- 5) Pork industry has driven the adoption of ADT through the industry, 95% of swine are identified at slaughter. Cattle has a long way to go because feeder cattle is still outside ADT. Sheep ID has found wide acceptance through the Scrapies program, more outreach needs to take place in goats.
- 6) There is a general feeling that electronic ID is needed to address the shortcomings of a visual tag. USDA funding will still be needed to achieve greater adoption of electronic ID and electronic data collection systems.

General Discussion:

Various perspectives on USDA enforcement and need for greater use of electronic data collection.

Animal Identification & Information Systems Council Session adjourned at noon.