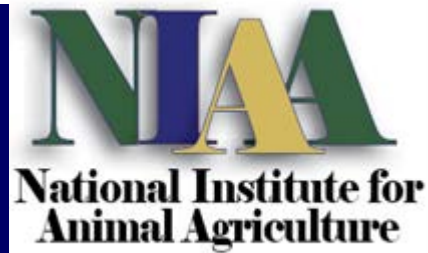


Animal Identification and Information Systems Council Report

2015 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, March 25, 2015



The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council met on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the 2015 NIAA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with approximately 60 people present. Drs. Robert Fourdraine and Boyd Parr served as Co-Chairs.

The Animal Identification & Information Systems Council session focused on implementation of the ADT rule and other topics related to traceability as a whole. The following speakers presented relevant information:

Neil Hammerschmidt, Program Manager for Animal Disease Traceability at USDA APHIS VS and Jack Shere, DVM, PhD, Associate Deputy Administrator at USDA APHIS VS, presented "USDA Update on Implementation to ADT"

- We have been using the same basic plan with the rule publication in January 2013 up until now. This is the longest continuous period in the history of the program.
- ADT is not full traceability. ADT supplements what we already had designed as a “bookend plus” system.
- ADT is now a performance-based program and no longer relies primarily on activity measures. Four performance measures still in place. Baselines for 3 of the 4 measures have been established:
 - Time to determine location in a state where animal was officially identified: 177 out of 255 traces successful (69%) with time to retrieve information of 88 hours.
 - Time to determine the state animal was shipped from into a state: 255 out of 439 traces successful (58%) with time to retrieve information of 139 hours.
 - Time to determine location animal shipped from within a state: 300 out of 393 traces successful (77%) with time to retrieve information of 264 hours.
- Traces to measure performance using the December 2014 guidelines will be collected through June 2015 using records from 2012, 2013 & 2014. Plan is to transition from spreadsheet reporting of trace time information to EMRS by July 2015 in time to generate data for the second year of comparison.
- Monitoring and compliance phased in enforcement began in March of 2014 focusing on repeat offenders and that effort continues focusing on the priorities of official ID, ICVIs and collection of ID at slaughter. From April through December of 2014, USDA issued 1015 letters of information and initiated 33 total cases with IES.
- Grandfather clause for application of manufacturer code AIN and American ID ended as of 3/11/15 as specified in the ADT rule.
- Grandfather clause for application of manufacturer code AIN and American ID ended as of 3/11/15 as specified in the ADT rule. All official tags applied now should have shield with US or State abbreviation in the shield and “840” for all AINs.
- Implementation challenges are:
 - Recording of official ID numbers on CVI/movement documents
 - Variability of state import regulations. USAHA resolution #26 result is expected to help with this problem

- Movement of animals interstate as “slaughter” that do not actually move directly to slaughter
- Restriction of “840” to only US born animals
- Restriction on the use of multiple tags in individual animals
- Requirement of “all” official ID included on official test charts
- Requirement of recording of official ID on dairy bulls calves moving interstate

Jack Shere, DVM, PhD, Associate Deputy Administrator, APHIS Veterinary Services, presented "USDA Update on Implementation to ADT"

- ADT is on the Administrators list of top ten priorities. USDA’s implementation priorities at this time are:
 - Consistent progress across all states (trace activities, updated road maps, ADT at slaughter)
 - Open new trade markets (UHF projects may provide an opportunity)
- USDA to conduct internal review of ADT progress, to be used for congressional reports

Ben Richey, Executive Director at USAHA, presented "Livestock Movement Website Update"

- Action in response to USAHA Resolution #26 culminated in a USDA Cooperative Agreement through NIAA to fund start-up costs for unified website for interstate livestock movement requirements. RFP was issued with 13 responses. Committee selected a few finalists for further review. USAHA Executive Committee and NIAA Board approved final recommendation of committee and contract with Trace First has been signed this week.
- Kathy Finnerty with Trace First spoke to the group and announced that Trace First would be contacting each state for a contact to work with them on the requirements for their states. Contract calls for the bovine requirements on the site for each state to be operational by the end of October 2015. Trace First hopes to have that part active prior to USAHA in October.

Jim Akers, National Livestock Marketing Association Government and Industry Affairs Committee member, presented "ADT Implementation and Marketing Facility Proposed Rule - An LMA Perspective"

- LMA represents 77% of the regularly selling livestock markets in the U.S.
- ADT requirements, especially those applying to markets, were reviewed.
- Livestock markets have concerns with the lack of consistency between state requirements and are fully supportive of the USAHA Res. #26 initiative.
- LMA has concerns that enforcement actions have to be across industry and not solely focus on the livestock markets.
- LMA has several concerns with the proposed rule on livestock markets and the livestock market agreements. The comments that LMA will submit to USDA in this regard were highlighted for the council: exceptions for livestock moving across a state line to a market only from “farm of origin”, removing the actual market agreement language from the CFR, and requirements that assume the market possesses information that they may not have were among those concerns.

Mendel Miller, DVM, Assistant South Dakota State Veterinarian, presented "South Dakota Solution to ADT Implementation at Markets"

- SD requires import permits for livestock moving into SD and has found the information provided very useful in traceability within SD and for ADT compliance. 17,110 permits were issued in FY14 all recorded electronically in SD database by their staff.
- Illegal import is a Class 6 felony in SD.
- Animal imported illegally are quarantined.

- SD also has requirement for recording of official ID on change of ownership for breeding cattle over 18 months of age. Requirement applies to both market transactions and private treaty. 181,067 official IDs were recorded in FY14
- 24,471 import CVIs recorded in FY14 representing 635,664 head of cattle entering the state put in the database that came from 48 states.
- ID from official test charts is also recorded in database.
- Export CVI individual animal ID's not recorded currently in database due to manpower limitations.
- SD has measured progress in compliance with official IDs since implementation of ADT using NVSL granuloma reports from slaughter plants.

Patrick Webb, DVM, Director of Swine Health Programs at National Pork Board, presented "An Industry Driven Solution to Implement ADT in the Pork Industry"

- Compliance with Premises tag requirement has risen with financial penalties/incentives imposed by packers.
- NPB is encouraging the industry to use electronic CVIs and to always include the PIN of the origin with the "Put a Pin on It" campaign. They are also encouraging members to always include PIN on laboratory submissions and bills of lading.

Robert Fourdraine, PhD, Vice President of DHI Operations at AgSource Cooperative Services, presented "Phase Out of American ID in the Dairy Industry"

- The Dairy industry needs a unique ID for use in the genetic evaluation program.
- American ID, NEUA, AIN are the predominant ID types used currently
- NEUS tags may not be unique and would cause issues in genetic evaluations
- Most producers are moving from visible panel tags with American ID to 840 tags. Same for manufacturer coded RFID tags
- Industry will still need American ID to identify animals that will not carry a visible or electronic ID but need a unique ID to be identified with a breed registry program or for herd management

Panel discussion on "UHF Trial"

Three panelists gave brief updates on the UHF trials in their states:

WI – Dr. Paul McGraw: WI has two projects: one with the Oneida Tribe with tracing grazing bison and another with a market applying UHF tags to calves upon market entry with tags read upon entering and leaving the sale ring. Goals are to match/synchronize with the market management system and create CVIs with the AINs on them.

OK – Dr. Rod Hall: OK also has two projects: one with dairy calves and another with TX cattle feeders. The dairy project will tag dairy calves before moving them to a calf raiser. Calf raisers plan to record health events and monitor inventory with hand-held units. Movement documents will also be created for the movement of the heifers back to the dairy. The TX cattle feeder project involves a feedlot situation and hopes to be able to also record when animals eat in addition to inventory. This project also plans to create iCVIs for movement from the feedlot on into slaughter.

CO – Dr. Carl Heckendorf: CO project involves two markets. CO also told of a non-USDA funded project involving a 70,000 head feedlot that also is monitoring feeding activity. Initial results from that project indicate the feedlot was able to find sick animals 3-5 days sooner than pen riders were able to detect. Another independent project involved including health data including BSE results on bulls on the UHF tag.

- General discussion included the lack of standards currently for UHF tags and readers and the cost of the tags.

Open discussion on "ADT, What is the Next Step"

Old Business: None

New Business: No new resolutions and no amendments.

General Discussion:

Basically a lot of interaction with USDA about ADT progress and the next phase in terms of measuring ADT performance and comparing against prior base measure.

Animal Identification & Information Systems Council Session adjourned at 11:30 AM.