

Update on USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health

**Animal Identification & Information
Systems Council**



Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH)

Purpose:

- Advise the Secretary on strategies, policies, and programs that prevent, control, or eradicate diseases of national significance
- Lead the dialogue on public health concerns, conservation of natural resources, and the stability of livestock economies
- Engage the public in dialogue on topics such as
 - Livestock disease management
 - Traceability strategies
 - Prioritizing animal health issues

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Traceability – major areas of comment

- Role of brands
- Avoidance of an unfunded mandate scenario
- Inclusion of feeder cattle
- Security and confidentiality of information collected
- Extension of the comment period for the proposed rule
- Maintaining the speed of commerce
- Technology for both identification devices and certificates of veterinary inspection
- Tribal sovereignty
- Statement of objectives of the framework and the problems it is intended to address

Avoidance of an unfunded mandate scenario

Issue: Information technology, data management, tags, and other performance requirements could impose costs that would burden stakeholders.

Committee Recommendation: The proposed rule should incorporate concrete provisions to ensure it will not result in an unfunded mandate. The proposed rule should provide that the regulatory requirements will be suspended if, at any point, there is insufficient funding, specifically for the costs to producers for identification devices; costs to States for necessary personnel and technology; and the costs to other impacted individuals (such as veterinarians, sales facilities, and other market facilitators) for any mandated practices and technology.

Extension of the comment period for the proposed rule

- **Issue:** The proposed rule for animal disease traceability will be published during a busy season for those in agriculture, and many individuals will be impacted.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The comment period for the proposed rule should be extended to 120 days.

SACAH

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/acah/

- January 20-21, 2011, Washington, DC
Federal Register Notice - ([pdf](#))
Agenda ([doc](#)) ([pdf](#))
- March 4, 2011 Teleconference
Federal Register Notice - ([pdf](#))
Agenda - ([docx](#)) ([pdf](#))
- May 13, 2011 Teleconference
(Updated) Federal Register Notice - (pdf)
Agenda (not yet available) - (doc) (pdf)
 - July 22, 2011
Federal Register Notice - (pdf)
Agenda (not yet available) - (doc) (pdf)