



Traceability

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9 CFR 310.2

- Handling of carcasses shall include the retention of ear tags, backtags, implants, and other identifying devices in such a way to relate them to the carcass until the post-mortem examination has been completed.
- Plastic bags used by the establishment for collecting identifying devices shall be affixed to the corresponding carcass and presented with viscera.

Receipt of Cattle at Official Establishments

- VS 454
- Record of animals
- Completed by establishment
- Documentation of official ID and source of animal

Carcass Flow in Harvesting Facilities

- Stun → Bleed → Prepare for de-hiding
- Preparation for de-hiding includes collection of animal ID
- Animal ID bag placed on leading half of carcass lateral to brisket area
- Animal entered on VS 454 at this point
- Hide removed
- Carcass enters “clean” area
- Inspectors stationed at heads, viscera table, and final rail

Issues Affecting Traceability

- Safety – unable to remove metal ear tags
- Confined space – unable to reach backtag
- Loss of ID – falls off live animal or carcass
- Human error – incorrect sequencing

Impact of New Processes

- Ante mortem cow washes
- High pressure spray hoses
- Post mortem spray cabinets

Brucellosis Testing

- Cooperative agreements with AHC and APHIS
- First point testing at sale barn = \$2
- First point testing at slaughter = \$0.25

Reduced First Point Testing

- First point testing not occurring at slaughter (VS 454)
- Brucellosis-free states are not conducting calfhood vaccination
- Lack of official ear tag
- TX Generic Database – APHIS Tool
- Traceability decreased due to lack of use of metal ear tag

First Point Identifying

- Affixing ID – ear tag / back tag
- Maintaining records
- Not Brucellosis testing

Average Traceback Time

- FSIS laboratory confirmation within 3 days
- Data entry into RVIS by OPPD within 2 days post confirmation
- FDA takes over
- Number of untraced animals documented by FDA

Successful Traces

- Official silver or orange metal ear tag
- Backtags
- Herd Bangle Tags
- Accurate recordkeeping
- Quick = Establishment can provide name and address of owner
- Slow = FDA investigation to determine name and address of owner

FSIS Goals

- Provide FDA with accurate and reliable animal owner information
- Eliminate repeat violators
- Assist with control of zoonotic diseases

- **PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH**



QUESTIONS?

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