

# 2017-2018 NIAA Resolutions

## Animal Identification & Information Systems Council

**Mission:** To play an important role in bringing unresolved issues such as advocating cost effective technologies and systems for modernizing the identification of livestock that has significant implications for residue avoidance, disease control and providing management information to producers.

### **ID1 Outreach/Education Efforts for the Animal Disease Traceability Framework**

**BACKGROUND:** Since the announcement of the Animal Disease Traceability framework, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state/industry partners have been working to develop and provide information about the goals, implementation, and overall direction of this new program. From experience it is understood that considerable education about and promotion of the Animal Disease Traceability system, will be required to avoid misinformation. In order to move forward, it is critical to provide accurate, timely, and transparent communication about implementation of the Animal Disease Traceability framework.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) strongly supports the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services ongoing efforts to gather stakeholder information, provide outreach programs and educational materials for the Animal Disease Traceability framework. NIAA encourages a proactive approach, including leveraging outreach funds in cooperation with industry organizational partners, tribal and state animal health authorities to promote benefits of the enhanced Animal Disease Traceability system to stakeholders and to address public misconceptions.

Adopted: 2010 | Amended: 2013

### **ID2 Slaughter Surveillance and ID Collection**

**BACKGROUND:** The brucellosis surveillance slaughter sample collection and testing program has not only been integral to the control and eradication of brucellosis, but also has served to aid in the traceability of other significant diseases. As brucellosis surveillance has been reduced, there is a wide recognition that the needs for animal disease traceability are increasing.

Whereas the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is deeply concerned that there will be a severe gap in animal disease traceability now that the brucellosis surveillance has been reduced and current animal ID/blood collection contracts are reduced or eliminated. Even though the CFR describes the requirements for FSIS inspected slaughter plants to collect animal ID and correlate those animal IDs to the appropriate carcasses, we are concerned that it may not be performed properly in all slaughter plants to enable appropriate disease trace-back.

RESOLUTION: NIAA is requesting that United States Secretary of Agriculture direct the Administrator of USDA-APHIS and the Administrator of USDA-FSIS to support and ensure that the collection of all man-made identification and correlation of those animal IDs to the appropriate carcasses from all livestock slaughtered. This activity is critical to ensure trace-back for enhanced animal disease traceability.

Adopted: 2011 | Amended: 2013

### **ID3 Traceability Funding**

BACKGROUND: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) acknowledges and applauds the unique and collaborative process USDA-APHIS-VS, States, and Tribes used to establish the final Animal Disease Traceability framework. With the advent of reduced participation in animal disease programs fewer livestock in the U.S. are officially identified. In addition, we recognize many other gaps that inhibit regulatory efforts in effective animal disease traceability. We recognize that the current economic climate may challenge or prohibit adequate funding and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has expressed concerns about animal disease traceability being an unfunded mandate.

Whereas animal disease traceability is of critical importance and most states are committed to accomplishing our joint traceability goals.

RESOLUTION: In order to maintain the viability, health, and marketability of U.S. livestock, NIAA strongly supports the implementation of the animal disease traceability framework and urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to ensure adequate funds are available for the implementation of ADT.

Adopted: 2011 | Amended: 2013

### **ID4 Livestock Movement Web Portal**

BACKGROUND: Discussion at the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and NIAA joint meeting on ADT in August 2013 and at other meetings have identified an industry need for one resource to find requirements for moving livestock of different classes from one state to another. Ideally, the resource could be available online and as a mobile app.

It was discussed in the Animal Identification Committee at USAHA in October 2013 that this effort could begin with cattle movement requirements and then expand into other species. Also discussed at this meeting was the possibility of building a system that has uses in an animal health emergency situation in addition to its day-to-day uses. For example, perhaps this system could be used to provide information about new livestock and commodity movement requirements in the event of an emergency, such as secure milk requirements to allow the milk supply to continue flowing despite a disease event.

RESOLUTION: NIAA and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) have approved the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials in collaboration with NIAA, USAHA and private and public stakeholders to create and maintain an easy-to-use, publically-accessible resource that compiles identification, documentation, disease-specific, and other movement requirements for

livestock moving interstate. Furthermore, NIAA supports the development of this resource being created in a manner that would allow for additional uses such as emergency response.

Adopted: 2014 |

**ID5 Use of Electronic Identification Devices and Information Management Systems in State, Federal and Tribal Animal Disease Traceability Programs**

**BACKGROUND:** Electronic identification devices (EID) and information systems, in all their forms, provide opportunities to improve the accuracy of traceability data, increase data capture efficiencies and more easily share critical information between systems and entities in many sectors of the livestock industry. EID is not the solution for everyone and in all situations, and options for visual identification should continue to be available to provide flexibility across industry segments. However, as large numbers of animals are aggregated at livestock markets, feedlots, exhibitions and processing facilities, EID and electronic information management systems have great potential for increasing the volume of reliable traceability data and decreasing labor requirements without slowing the speed of commerce. While upfront costs for EID devices and associated information systems can be higher than traditional visual ID and paper-based record keeping, the long-term benefits to individual operations and traceability systems appear to justify investments in EID technologies in livestock production systems, marketing segments and supply chains throughout the industry. Near-term, widely applicable and relatively easy-to-implement solutions that have a demonstrable and relative short-term positive ROI should be favored over longer-term, yet-to-be-proven or relatively difficult-to-implement solutions. The availability and cost effectiveness of various solutions has increased in recent years and the industry's focus should be on demonstration, sharing best practices and increasing rates of adoption of existing workable solutions.

**RESOLUTION:** The NIAA strongly supports increased use of any and all official electronic identification devices and associated information management systems in all segments of the livestock industry where individual producers, market and feedlot operators, exhibition managers, processing facilities and regulatory agencies deem these technologies of value to their operations and the industry as a whole. NIAA urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to ensure adequate funds are available as part of the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) implementation in support of these efforts.

Adopted: 2017