Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Utah

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

DR. AMANDA PRICE

STATE VETERINARIAN

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

4315 S 2700 W

TSOB SOUTH BUILDING, FLOOR 2

TAYLORSVILLE, UT 84129

801-982-2235

Submitted to:

DR. KEREN ROZENSHER
AREA VETERINARIAN FOR UTAH
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

176 N 2200 W, SUITE 230

SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84116

801-524-5010

Date: February 5, 2025

Table of Contents

I.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Animal Health Program, which is overseen by the state veterinarian, is the primary agency that oversees animal disease traceability (ADT) within Utah. The UDAF Animal Health Program continues to work towards improving animal disease traceability through improving animal disease detection, reducing data entry errors, increasing adoption of electronic identification and readers, and reducing data entry requirements.

Over the past three years, UDAF has implemented a cost-share program for radiofrequency identification (RFID) tag readers for veterinarians, distributed RFID tag readers to county extension agents, distributed no-cost RFID tags to producers and veterinarians, and provided training and education on tags, readers, and electronic records. UDAF continues to use the USAHerds program for management of animal movement, vaccination, and testing records as well as cervid inventories. The UDAF Brand Inspection Program has developed an electronic brand inspection program with searchable records. UDAF also offers the VetCVI program at no cost to veterinarians and has provided training on the program to veterinary clinics throughout the state. UDAF has also successfully completed all Trace Performance Measures from USDA and regularly performs traces on stray animals and for epidemiologic investigations.

Despite advances in ADT in Utah, areas for improvement include duplicate premises, premises with incorrect or missing information, test results not including premises information, adoption of RFID tags by producers, an insufficient number of federally allocated RFID tags, and paper records. The UDAF Animal Health Program received a NADPRP grant to assist with premises cleanup and adding premises identification numbers (PINs) to the laboratory information management system at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. UDAF is working with USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services and other stakeholders to procure more RFID tags. The UDAF Animal Health Program is also continuing to offer training on VetCVI and RFID readers to veterinarians, along with continuing the reader programs with veterinarians and county extension agents. UDAF will stop providing paper health certificate books to veterinarians once the current supply is depleted and require the use of electronic health certificates for export.

The ADT cooperative agreement supports ongoing efforts for animal disease traceability by providing funding for:
- RFID tag readers for both the veterinarian cost-share program and county extension agents.
- RFID tags to supplement the federal allocation
- USAHerds and VetCVI
- Travel to the annual USAHerds User Group meeting to learn how to better use the program to support ADT efforts
- Travel to the Western States Livestock Health Association meeting

In addition to the federal ADT funding received, the UDAF Animal Health Program has 6 employees whose primary responsibilities include entry of paper records and assisting with traces and reporting. These employees include office specialists, program specialists, business analysts, and animal health coordinators. UDAF veterinarians review all import health certificates to ensure compliance with ADT and other import requirements. Program staff also complete Trace Performance Measures and are working on the NADPRP project mentioned above. The UDAF Brand Inspection Program has 49 employees including a brand recorder, full-time brand inspectors, and part-time brand inspectors.

Based on current workload requirements for ADT efforts, travel, registration fees, database and eCVI support and hosting, RFID tag shortfalls, and indirect costs, we expect ADT requirements to cost UDAF approximately:
- Year 1 = $714,000
- Year 2 = $734,000
- Year 3 = $755,000

The increase between years is due to cost of living increases for salary and benefits as well as increased costs for database and eCVI support and maintenance and hosting.

II.   CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION
2.1   Who are we?

The UDAF Animal Health Program, housed within the Animal Industry Division and overseen by the state veterinarian, has the responsibility to implement animal disease traceability systems for the state of Utah. Our jurisdiction includes the boundaries of Utah excluding the tribal lands of the Ute, Navajo, Goshute, and Piute nations. UDAF works closely with livestock and poultry producers, industry groups, Utah State Extension, and veterinarians on animal disease traceability.

Traceability data is used to identify stray animals, track movements, conduct epidemiologic investigations and traces, determine compliance with surveillance and other programs, identify priorities for traceability efforts, and determine program needs for training, education, and reader or tag distribution. The UDAF Animal Industry Division works with programs in other divisions including the Apiary program and the Dairy program to identify premises and to manage reportable diseases.

The primary goals of Utah's animal traceability system are:
- Ensuring the privacy of data collected
- Collecting information that is accurate and free from duplication
- Ability to rapidly update information
- User-friendly information extraction

• Increasing the electronic transfer of data into USAHerds

Some traceability information is provided externally to industry groups and the state legislature and may be used to request additional funding for program priorities. UDAF provides premises information to USDA-APHIS-VS for disease outbreaks and epidemiological investigations. Some Utah USDA-APHIS-VS staff have limited access to USAHerds to provide official tag distribution information. UDAF also has data-sharing agreements with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services for zoonotic disease outbreaks and with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for issues that affect both wildlife and domestic animals.

UDAF does not have an ADT advisory group. However, UDAF has an Agricultural Advisory Committee which helps identify priorities and provide direction to Department programs. Utah also has a Domesticated Elk Advisory Council that provides similar direction for the Domesticated Elk Program. The UDAF Animal Industry Division works closely with the Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Wool Growers Association, Utah Veterinary Medical Association, and other industry groups on issues of concern for livestock and poultry producers, including ADT efforts.

2.2   Where are we now?

Animal disease traceability in Utah is defined as the ability of the UDAF Animal Health Program to know where animals are, track their movements, and ensure compliance with movement requirements and surveillance programs. ADT efforts are critical for management of program efforts including the Domesticated Elk Program, National Poultry Improvement Program, US Swine Health Improvement Program, trichomoniasis control program, and ensuring compliance with import requirements.

Measures to track traceability capability include:
- Number of health certificates in the backlog.
- Number of health certificates entered per month and per person
- Number of paper and electronic health certificates by species
- Total number of premises in USAHerds
- Number of premises with a federal PIN in USAHerds
- Number of premises with GPS coordinates
- Number of premises with a classification other than non-producer participant
- Number of premises with species defined
- Number of cattle or bison vaccinated for brucellosis
- Compliance with testing and inventory requirements on domesticated elk facilities.
- Number of non-compliance letters issued to veterinarians for health certificates

● Time to complete USDA Trace Performance Measures

Traceability effectiveness is also determined through the program's ability to trace stray animals when provided with an official identification tag number or a trichomoniasis tag number. These requests are generally made by state animal health officials in other states or Utah brand inspectors. This is not tracked but done on an as-needed basis. During normal business hours, this is done by Animal Health Program staff. After hours traces are generally performed by the state veterinarian.

UDAF occasionally receives public records requests for health certificates, brand inspections, or other movement information. All records for the tracing of livestock diseases and brand inspections are protected and can only be released to the subject of the record or under very specific circumstances. Record requests for health certificates and other records for small animals and wildlife are granted, with removal of personally identifying information.

Because the UDAF Animal Health Program is a relatively small program compared to other states, federal funding is critical to allow UDAF to use USAHerds as well as to purchase RFID tags to help meet the federal allocation shortfall and purchase readers for the cost-share and extension programs. However, federal funding only covers approximately 12% of the state expenditures for ADT efforts. State funding is used to cover personnel expenses for data entry and for some additional RFID tag funding.

2.3   Strengths and Weaknesses

a. Strengths:
- UDAF has a large number of premises IDs issued in USAHerds, and many have a federal PIN.
- The USAHerds Animal Dashboard Search allows rapid traceability by searching for identification numbers from import and export health certificates, test charts, vaccination charts, and official tag distribution records.
- The UDAF Domesticated Elk Program maintains a detailed inventory for every elk facility within Utah and monitors each facility annually for compliance with testing and inventory requirements. Every elk in the state is required to have a RFID tag, and each facility has been provided with an RFID reader and training on the reader.
- All reportable disease test results are automatically sent from the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory information management system into USAHerds automatically. UDAF and UVDL work closely during disease outbreaks to share premises test information.
- UDAF has an electronic brand inspection program that allows rapid upload of movement information and a searchable database.

b. Weaknesses:
- UDAF relies heavily on federal funding to run the ADT program, and cuts to the funding may result in the state's inability to pay for USAHerds.
- Sheep producers and auctions in Utah are frequently found to be non-compliant with federal scrapie regulations for animal identification.
- Many premises are not properly classified as to the type of facility, and many premises do not have a species type assigned to them. The addition of this information will help greatly during a disease outbreak by identifying premises with susceptible species.
- Some parts of the state still do not have 911 addresses for premises, making it difficult to identify the exact location of animals. Some parts of the state implemented 911 addresses or re-classified addresses, resulting in duplicate premises or premises that must be validated with their new address.
- Several premises have only a PO box or rural route address.
- Many test charts, vaccination charts, and health certificates are still received on paper forms, requiring manual data entry into USAHerds, increasing manpower requirements as well as the risk of transcription errors.

2.4   Opportunities and Threats

a. Opportunities
- UDAF offers VetCVI at no cost to Utah veterinarians. This program offers electronic health certificates as well as electronic tuberculosis test charts and brucellosis vaccination charts. UDAF staff are available to train veterinarians in person at their clinics and also provide technical support through phone and video calls. VetCVI is also offered by Arizona and Colorado, allowing veterinarians who practice in both states to use the same program for both states.
- UDAF plans to stop offering paper health certificates to veterinarians once the current supply is depleted. This will require veterinarians to use an electronic health certificate system for animal exports, reducing data entry requirements for program staff and allowing staff to start monitoring export health certificates for compliance with ADT requirements.
- The use of electronic health certificates, brand inspections, and test/vaccination charts will more rapidly get movement and test data into USAHerds and the brand inspection database, allowing UDAF to more quickly trace movements and testing during an outbreak.
- This plan increases the distribution of RFID readers throughout Utah in the hopes of increasing the use of electronic records. The veterinarian cost-share program has already distributed 24 readers to Utah food animal veterinarians. Extension agents in counties with high cattle populations have received readers and training so that they can lend the

readers to producers upon request. This saves the producers from needing to purchase their own reader if they are only processing cattle a few days per year.

b. Threats

- The USAHerds database is hosted by Acclaim Systems, which is located in a different state from UDAF. A catastrophic event in Utah would not affect the data held within the program. USAHerds is also a web-based program and can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection.
- The current federal allocation of no-cost RFID tags for Utah is 40,000 tags. This is insufficient to meet the state's needs for just brucellosis vaccination, and does not account for dairy interstate movement requirements or the state requirement for an RFID tag in bulls tested for trichomoniasis. Maintaining the current allocation or a potential reduction in the allocation would cost the Utah livestock industry thousands of dollars to meet state and federal identification requirements.
- Failure to remove duplicate premises, update existing premises with coordinates and species, and add premises based on testing and movement records could result in an inability to accurately trace animal movements and identify premises within a control area during a disease outbreak.

2.5   Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

The UDAF Animal Health Program has the following staff who participate in ADT efforts:
- 2 Office Specialists
- Program Specialist
- Business Analyst
- Animal Health Program Coordinator
- State Veterinarian
- 3 Field Veterinarians
- Fish Health Specialist

In addition to Animal Health Program staff, Department personnel involved in ADT efforts consists of:
- Domesticated Elk Program manager
- Brand recorder
- 12 full-time brand inspectors
- 36 part-time brand inspectors.

Apiary diseases are managed by the Apiary Program under the UDAF Plant Industry Division, and licensed dairies are managed by the Dairy Compliance Program under the UDAF Regulatory Services Division.

UDAF employs two laboratory technicians, a veterinary diagnostician, and a pathologist and provides additional funding for staff salaries and benefits at the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

USAHerds and the UVDL laboratory information management system are both web-based resources and can be accessed in the office and in the field. USAHerds can only be accessed through a computer and not through a phone or non-windows-based tablet.

Office staff scan paper health certificates and test or vaccination charts when they arrive. Large animal health certificates are entered into USAHerds and the scanned file is attached to the record, and small animal health certificates are stored in a shared drive by the year (for imports) or by state of destination (for exports). All paper export health certificates are emailed to the state of destination. Tuberculosis test charts and brucellosis vaccination charts are entered into USAHerds and the scanned file is attached to the record. Trichomoniasis and equine infectious anemia test charts are added as time allows; these are filed in the office until the time they are entered.

USAHerds works with the USAHA XML schema, and health certificates from Global Vet Link, VSPS, VetSentry, and VetCVI are automatically received into the database. Some states email an XML and PDF; those are uploaded into USAHerds by office staff and the PDF is then attached. All import health certificates are reviewed for compliance with import requirements. Import health certificates and paper export health certificates for livestock, horses, and poultry are updated to include the premises identification number for the Utah consignor or consignee. Once manpower allows, premises identification numbers will be assigned to electronic export health certificates.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The vision of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is to lead Utah towards self-reliance by promoting, preserving, and protecting all forms of agricultural production and processing to ensure a safe and abundant supply of locally produced foods for all Utahns.

The UDAF Animal Health Program is committed to meeting and exceeding federal ADT requirements and assisting producers and veterinarians in meeting those requirements.

3.2   Mission Statement

The mission of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is to support the development of Utah's agriculture and food industries, serve as a steward of our natural resources, safeguard public health, protect consumers, and ensure a quality food supply.

IV.   TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1   Strategic goal(s)

The strategic goals of the Utah ADT plan include:
- Ensure that data that supports disease traceability during a disease outbreak is timely, accurate, and available.
- Increase the use of electronic records to reduce transcription errors and increase the speed of data transmission.
- Improve accuracy of premises information to better target outreach and disease response efforts.

4.2   Programmatic goals (objectives)

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make searchable for records requests and other purposes.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

4.3   ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.
- Provide no-cost eCVIs and test/vaccination charts to veterinarians through VetCVI.
- Increase the number of veterinarians using eCVIs through in-person training.
- Provide resources for veterinarians using VetCVI on the UDAF Animal Health Program website.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.
- Identify and merge duplicate premises
- Validate premises coordinates and owner information
- Add species for each premises
- Classify premises by production type
- Add premises identification numbers to parties in the UVDL laboratory information management system so the accessions messaged to USAHerds include a premises identification number.
- Add new premises as needed, and review new premises to ensure all needed data has been added.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.
- Review all import health certificates for compliance with import requirements.
- Link out-of-state brand inspections received by UDAF to health certificates and follow up on brand inspections received without a health certificate.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.
- Train office staff in Excel and other programs to more efficiently retrieve traceability information.
- Create reports in USAHerds or other programs to rapidly generate traceability information.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make searchable for records requests and other purposes.
- Scan all paper records held at UDAF and create a naming convention to allow rapid retrieval.
- Request the return of paper records held at Utah State Archives and scan the records and name them according to the naming convention to allow rapid retrieval during a records request.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

11

- Ensure that Animal Health Program staff that conduct traces have access to USDA databases
- Regularly train all Program staff on USAHerds so they have sufficient knowledge to pull information for USDA Trace Performance Measures and other traces.
- Identify areas for improvement for traces and implement training or other measures to address those areas.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

- Monitor health certificates entered into USAHerds for completeness and accuracy.
- Regularly train Program staff who are entering records into USAHerds on entry of records.
- Monitor the number of records entered monthly.

4.4   Data requirements

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.

- Veterinarians interested in using VetCVI must provide their accreditation and license numbers as well as the expiration dates, and their accreditation and license information is verified through VSPS and the state licensing board.
- Electronic health certificates and test/vaccination charts that are submitted through VetCVI are messaged automatically using an XML schema into USAHerds. Electronic health certificates are also sent directly to the state of destination.
- Each import health certificate is reviewed for compliance with state import requirements and federal ADT rules.
- The Animal Health Program will increase the adoption of RFID tags and electronic records in the state through the veterinarian cost-share program for RFID tag readers, provision of RFID tag readers to county extension agents, and providing low- or no-cost RFID tags to producers and veterinarians.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

- New premises are identified through health certificates, test or vaccination charts, and laboratory accessions. Each premises created is geocoded or the coordinates are manually identified through Google or Bing maps. Any premises that can't be located from the information provided are flagged for further validation.
- Species are identified for new and existing premises from health certificates and test or vaccination charts.

- Animal Health Program staff use property search websites to validate premises.
- Animal Health Program staff that are creating a premises with a federal premises identification number always check if the premises already exists in USAHerds or a federal database and conduct searches by address and owner or business name.
- Premises that request a federal premises identification number or premises that are involved in a disease outbreak are assigned a federal premises identification number through USAHerds or the federal allocator.
- USDA Veterinary Services will be consulted if duplicate premises with federal premises identification numbers or errors are identified.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.

- All import health certificates are reviewed for compliance with Utah import requirements and federal ADT regulations. Veterinarians issuing health certificates that are not compliant receive a noncompliance letter; this letter is also provided to the state animal health official in the state of origin and the USDA Utah/Nevada Area Veterinarian in Charge.
- As the data entry requirements are reduced because of electronic health certificates and brucellosis vaccination charts, Animal Health Program staff will use brand inspections and other records to identify imports that do not meet requirements.
- All commuter permits must be reviewed and approved by the state of origin and state of destination. Any herds that do not comply with movement requirements are ineligible for future commuter permits and must meet all state requirements.
- Group/Lot Identification Numbers are entered as an identification type (typically Other or Penlot) and are searchable through the USAHerds Animal Dashboard Search or the import or export health certificate search page.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.

- Animal Health Program staff are able to export traceability information into Excel or create reports through SQL for easier searching and reporting. Program staff are trained in Excel to more easily compile required data.
- Animal Health Program staff are regularly trained on data entry for various types of documents to ensure accurate entry of data.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make searchable for records requests and other purposes.

- Animal Health Program staff will retrieve paper records from Utah State Archives and use digital scanners to scan the records. These records will be stored on Google Drive and can be accessed by Program staff.
- A standardized naming convention will be created for files that allows searchability.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

- The State Veterinarian, Business Analyst, and Animal Health Coordinator all have access to EMRS2 and the USDA Trace Performance Measures. These personnel will use USAHerds, EMRS2, and other federal databases to complete USDA Trace Performance Measures.
- Gaps and areas for improvement will be addressed through standard operating procedures and additional training for program staff as needed.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

- The records listed above will be entered into USAHerds. USAHerds provides data to AHER for livestock movements.
- USDA and UDAF staff enter tag distribution records into USAHerds through the AIN Entry feature.
- Animal identification tag records can be accessed through the USAHerds Animal Dashboard Search, which allows searching of animal records, accessions, tag distributions, health certificates, and incidents.

4.5   Information technology plan

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.

- This will be accomplished through the use of VetCVI. VetCVI is a product of Acclaim, the same company that manages USAHerds. Training can be provided to veterinary clinics on the use of the Allflex Connect app and other appropriate applications to collect information chute side that can be imported into VetCVI.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

- Animal Health Program staff create premises in USAHerds.
- A variety of property search websites and other sources including Google and Bing maps are used to validate premises.
- SQL and Excel allow Program staff to identify species for existing premises. These species are then added to each premises in USAHerds.
- Animal Health Program staff do not create federal premises identification numbers for premises unless requested by the premises or needed as part of a disease outbreak.
- Animal Health Program staff that are creating a premises with a federal premises identification number always check if the premises already exists in USAHerds and a federal database and conduct searches by address and owner or business name.

- Premises that request a federal premises identification number or premises that are involved in a disease outbreak are assigned a federal premises identification number through USAHerds or the federal allocator.
- USDA Veterinary Services will be consulted if duplicate premises with federal premises identification numbers or errors are identified.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.
- Animal Health Program veterinarians use USAHerds to review health certificates.
- USAHerds receives the XML and PDF for electronic health certificates generated by GVL, VetCVI, VSPS, and VetSentry. XMLs received from other sources are imported into USAHerds using the external messaging queue. Paper health certificates are entered manually by Program staff.
- Brand inspections are electronically generated in a separate program. This program is accessible to the Brand Recorder and Business Analyst.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.
- Program staff use USAHerds, SQL, and Excel to retrieve traceability data for reporting and compliance.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make searchable for records requests and other purposes.
- Program staff use digital scanners to digitize paper records. These records are stored on Google Drive.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- Program staff with access to USAHerds, EMRS, ADTIS, and other federal databases complete USDA Trace Performance Measures.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.
- Program staff use USAHerds as the repository for all tag distribution records, movement records (except brand inspections), inventories, test records, and vaccination records.

4.6   Resource requirements

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.
- Program staff are developing user guides and providing in-person and telephone support for VetCVI and Allflex Connect applications. Additional user guides are created as needed.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

- Program staff use county property search websites and other resources to validate new premises.
- Program staff train other staff on data integrity for premises creation and searching, including confirming that the address pertains specifically to the animal location.
- Program staff with access to ADTIS/premises management receive training on searching premises.
- Program staff that identify duplicate or inaccurate data on premises with federal premises identification numbers will contact a USDA Veterinary Services subject matter expert to correct information.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.

- Program veterinarians use USAHerds and provided PDFs to review all import health certificates for compliance with Utah import requirements and federal ADT requirements.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.

- Program staff receive training on Excel, USAHerds, and other programs as appropriate to improve retrieval of traceability information.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make searchable for records requests and other purposes.

- Program staff use digital scanners to digitize paper records.
- Google Drive is used for storage of digitized records, and naming conventions are used to allow searching of digitized documents.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

- Program staff use USAHerds, EMRS2, and other federal databases to complete USDA Trace Performance Measures.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

- Program staff use USAHerds to enter tag distribution and other records listed above. Paper movement records are received through a dedicated email. Electronic vaccination and test records are received into USAHerds from VetCVI and the laboratory information management system used by the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

4.7   Organizational needs

The current organization structure is believed to be adequate to implement the road map. Additional organizational help may be needed from the field veterinarians or other staff if there are additional requests for in-person training on VetCVI or other programs. As veterinarians continue to shift to electronic health certificates and

test/vaccination records, Program staff will be available to shift to better monitor compliance with ADT requirements on export health certificates and validate existing premises in USAHerds.

4.7.1 Executive support

The Animal Health Program has strong support from UDAF executive management to maintain a sound ADT system. In the recent past, the executive management has approved installation of a new laboratory information management system at the state veterinary diagnostic lab that messages directly to USAHerds.

The Utah Division of Purchasing requires regular reports on the contract with Acclaim for USAHerds. In addition, UDAF staff have bimonthly meetings with Acclaim to discuss tickets for issues and enhancements. Larger issues are reported to executive management through weekly reports and division director meetings with the UDAF Commissioner.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

UDAF does not have an ADT advisory group. UDAF does have an Agricultural Advisory Board. The Animal Industry Division also works closely with private veterinarians, producers, and industry groups including Utah Veterinary Medical Association, Utah Wool Growers' Association, Utah Cattlemen's Association, and Utah Farm Bureau to discuss animal disease traceability issues. The Utah state veterinarian and assistant state veterinarian are members of the Western States Livestock Health Association, the Western Alliance of States for Agricultural Resilience, the USAHerds User Group, and the US Animal Health Association.

4.7.3 Policy

Animal Health Program policies are aligned with the Official Animal Identification Device Standards and 9 CFR part 86.

4.7.4 Staffing

The Animal Health Program employs two office specialists, a program specialist, a business analyst, an animal health coordinator, three field veterinarians, an assistant state veterinarian, and a state veterinarian. All play a role in ADT.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed for data entry into USAHerds. Program staff develop other SOPs as needed by the program. Regular training sessions are held with all staff with access to USAHerds to standardize data entry procedures and train staff on other programs that may assist with ADT.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

ADT projects are funded through the federal ADT cooperative agreement as well as state funding for personnel and animal identification tags. In the cost-share program for RFID readers, veterinarians pay fifty percent of UDAF's cost for the readers. Any cuts to federal cooperative agreement funding would reduce the number of tags and readers available through the program. UDAF may be required to switch to a cost-share program to provide sufficient tags to meet the shortfall from the federal allocation.

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Salary and Benefits	$577,850	$595,186	$613,041
Travel and Registration Fees	$3,680	$3,680	$3,680
RFID Readers for cost-share and county extension	$10,553	$10,553	$10,553
RFID tags for USDA shortfall	$57,000	$57,000	$57,000
USAHerds and VetCVI	$54,960	$57,708	$60,593
Indirect Costs	$9,882	$9,914	$9,948
Total Costs	**$713,925**	**$734,041**	**$754,816**

This does not include the cost of the brand inspection program or other personnel outside of the Animal Health Program.

4.7.6 Outreach (required to be addressed within the Road Map)

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

The Animal Health Program maintains email lists of accredited food animal and equine veterinarians and provides updates via emails as needed and the quarterly Animal Health Update newsletter. The Utah Veterinary Medical Association also maintains a listserv of Utah veterinarians and can forward updates to that listserv.

The Animal Health Program offers a trichomoniasis recertification webinar at least annually and provides updates on program diseases or ADT during that webinar.

The Animal Health Program offers in-person training on VetCVI as well as user guides on the UDAF website. Program staff are available for support via telephone, email, and text as needed. UDAF provides RFID tags to veterinarians if they are unable to acquire tags from USDA.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

All cattle slaughtered in Utah must have a brand inspection prior to slaughter. Brand inspection certificates collected at state-inspected plants (including Talmage-Aiken plants) are provided to the UDAF Meat and Poultry Inspection Program staff on a monthly basis by the inspectors in the plants. State brand inspectors work with federal plants to collect brand inspections for out-of-state cattle. The brand inspections are available to Animal Health Program staff upon request.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

The UDAF Animal Industry Division works closely with industry groups to inform them of any changes in ADT implementation. In the past, UDAF has developed videos, brochures, and flyers on ADT such as the RFID tag mandate that went into effect in November 2024. Animal Health Program staff attend livestock industry events such as the annual Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association conventions, stockmanship meetings, and county association meetings to provide updates as needed.

Animal Health Program staff also work closely with the state Brand Inspection Program, and attend all trainings held throughout the state.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

All interstate health certificates for livestock, horses, and poultry are entered into USAHerds and are searchable within the database. All import health certificates are reviewed for compliance with Utah import requirements and federal ADT requirements, and a premises identification number is added to each health

certificate. Veterinarians who issue import health certificates that are not compliant with import requirements or ADT requirements receive a noncompliance letter.

All animal identification on import and export health certificates is entered into the USAHerds database and is searchable.

USDA and Animal Health Program staff enter official tag distribution information into USAHerds through AIN Entry. This is searchable within USAHerds using the Animal Dashboard Search. Official tags recorded on a health certificate, test chart, or vaccination record are also searchable through the appropriate modules of USAHerds.

V.   ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1   Ranking of priorities for advancement

The objectives of this ADT plan are:

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make them searchable for records requests and other purposes.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

All of the objectives listed above are already being performed by the Animal Health Program. The objectives with the greatest areas for improvement are Objectives 2 and 5. The Animal Health Program is using NADPRP funding to improve premises information. As the backlog of health certificates is cleared, staff will increase the digitization of paper records.

5.2   Implementation of objectives

Objective 1: Increase the number of veterinarians using electronic health certificates and electronic brucellosis vaccination charts.

- Animal Health Program staff are already working towards this goal and have visited more than ten veterinary clinics to provide in-person training on VetCVI.

Objective 2: Improve data integrity and information captured for existing and new premises.

- Animal Health Program staff began on this objective in August 2024 by identifying premises with incorrect cities, zip codes, counties, and coordinates.
- Program staff will continue this objective by identifying missing information, validating premises through property search websites and other resources, and adding species to premises.

Objective 3: Monitor compliance with import requirements through review of health certificates and brand inspections.

- Program staff currently review all import health certificates for compliance with state import requirements and federal ADT requirements. Program staff will move towards review of export livestock health certificates for compliance with federal ADT requirements.

Objective 4: Improve retrieval of available traceability information for reporting and compliance purposes.

- Program staff will receive additional training in Excel and other programs that can assist with retrieval and analysis of available traceability information that is required for reporting and compliance.

Objective 5: Digitize existing paper records and make them searchable for records requests and other purposes.

- Program staff will contact Utah State Archives to retrieve existing paper records and digitize them. Each digitized record will be entered into USAHerds or given a naming convention to allow rapid retrieval for records requests or other purposes.

Objective 6: Successfully complete all USDA Trace Performance Measures and identify gaps and areas for improvement.

- At least two Program staff members will have access to all databases required to perform USDA Trace Performance Measures.
- Any gaps or areas for improvement that are identified will be shared with Program staff, and SOPs or other training will be implemented to reduce those gaps or areas for improvement in the future.

Objective 7: Ensure that tag distribution records, movement records, inventories, and testing or vaccination records are entered into USAHerds in a timely manner and as accurately as possible.

- The Animal Health Coordinator monitors records entry for the Animal Health Program and ensures that records are entered in a timely manner.

- All import health certificates are reviewed for compliance with import requirements as well as accuracy. Records other than import health certificates are spot-checked for accuracy.