Advancing Animal Disease Traceability
Three Year Road Map for Washington State

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Animal identification is an integral part of animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication programs in Washington State. Traceability is the key to protecting the economic viability of animal agriculture during an adverse animal health event and protecting our regional food supply. In order to respond quickly, whether it is a single incident or a full-scale outbreak, animal health officials need to know which animals are involved, where they are located, and what other animals might have been exposed. The sooner reliable data is available, impacted animals can be located, appropriate response measures can be taken, and disease spread can be halted.

The ability to find infected and exposed livestock in a rapid manner will:

- Increase our state's disease response capabilities;
- Limit the spread of animal diseases;
- Minimize animal losses and economic impact on the agriculture industry;
- Protect producers' livelihoods;
- Provide sustained market access and confidence for our trading partners;
- Protect or reduce public exposure to zoonotic diseases; and
- Improve animal welfare by reducing morbidity and mortality events.

In 2013, USDA established rules to support an interstate traceability program that focuses on identifying certain classes of cattle when they are moved across state lines. In recent years, USDA and the States have focused on building on that system to create a full traceability system from birth to slaughter, or a "bookend system". The bookend system includes the ability to apply and record official identification at the birth premises or at the first point at commingling, capture movement "sightings" and the ability to retire that official identification at harvest.

The key objective is to promote the use of an official, electronic identification standard that would interface with specific disease eradication programs, interstate commerce, breed registries, or age and source verification programs. Moving away from paper towards electronic reporting gains efficiency in our ability to trace animals, reduce transcription errors and speed commerce.

History of ADT in Washington State 2006 to present

2006

Washington Legislative House Bill 3033 created a cattle advisory committee consisting of twenty members across the cattle industry to evaluate animal traceability efforts in the state.

2007

The cattle advisory committee worked to establish a separate state database to collect animal identification for animal disease traceability. This database would use existing animal health and livestock inspection information received by the state veterinarian. Funding would be a combination of General Fund State and transaction based private funds. The legislature provided initial funding for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to begin development of a Unified Divisional Information System (UDIS). UDIS was a multi-divisional database reaching across nine program areas.

2008-2012
The Animal Health portion of UDIS accepted data entry of livestock movement and testing information i.e. Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), federal vaccination and test information, and import (entry) permits, along with the scanned images of the original documents as well as inter/intrastate livestock inspection records. This Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) information is shared with other state veterinarians, tribes, territories, and the USDA to limit the negative economic impact from an animal health event.

2013
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented a traceability rule that shifted the burden of livestock traceability to the states. With USDA's published emphasis on traceability for livestock moving interstate, increased awareness on Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD), USDA's future performance-based traceability standards for states, and aging UDIS database technology Washington's cattle industry stressed the importance of incorporating electronic technology to gather traceability information.

Our cattle industry submitted legislation to develop an in-house ADT system for Washington State that encompasses two parts: the database called Animal Tracks and the electronic Livestock Inspection system called eLID. Animal Tracks is the central repository for animal health information, change of ownership information, brand recordings, and movement information. The eLID system allows livestock inspectors to conduct market sale and field inspections electronically and allows inspection information to be synchronized into Animal Tracks. The ADT system also supports web-based movement reporting. Currently three reporting options are available: the ability for licensed dairy producers and cattlemen to report sales of branded or unbranded cattle with an official 840 RFID tag.

The agency-conducted rulemaking to establish a private-based fee of $0.23 cents per head on all Washington cattle sold, slaughtered, or that were moved out-of-state and $0.05 cents per head on all out-of-state cattle destined directly to slaughter to support ADT in Washington.

2017-2018
In 2017, WSDA initiated a state funded demonstration project at Everson Auction Market (EAM) with the goals to:

- Promote "passive" and "active" capture of RFID tags in cattle at public markets in Washington State;
- Promote the use of RFID 840 tags in cattle by increasing use by market veterinarians when cattle are Brucellosis vaccinated, Trichomoniasis tested, or return to a premises; and
- Develop a vet module interface within the existing market software to pair RFID and backtag information on cattle moving through markets that do not go directly to slaughter.

2019 - 2020
Animal Tracks
WSDA is continually making investments in software and module enhancements/upgrades to Animal Tracks to keep up to date on traceability advancements and is able to accommodate data generated electronically in other state and commercial animal health record platforms for traceability. This browser-based application houses animal health records such as ICVI's, federal

brucellosis vaccination and test records, tuberculosis test records, trichomoniasis test records, import permits, quarantine/hold orders, slaughter facility RFID tag numbers and livestock inspection information.
Animal Tracks is able to accommodate data generated electronically in the Oregon Veterinary Information System (OVIS) and other state and commercial animal health record platforms (VSPS, GVL, etc.) that can be imported and stored for ADT. Animal tracks also houses laboratory reports, animal identification and location information, as well as owner and reporting veterinarian information are captured and can used for traceability efforts.

Veterinarian Electronic Regulatory Record Modernization
WSDA transitioned from the states PDF fillable eCVI to OVIS. OVIS is web-based and allows accredited veterinarians to access a free electronic platform to generate CVIs, TB test records and brucellosis test/vaccination records which is automatically transmitted to the state veterinarian's office when digitally signed. There are currently over 330 WA veterinarians and 55 authorized users registered for the system. Note, authorized users are assigned by the veterinarian, can complete records but cannot submit because they do not have digital signature authority.
WSDA started charging for the paper CVIs to discourage their use because they require reentering, scanning and slow down our ability to trace animals. In the last 3 years, electronic CVI use by accredited veterinarians has increased from 3% to 75%.

Markets
WSDA worked closely with software programmers to enhance the current market management system for capturing official electronic individual identification at public livestock markets. All six of the livestock markets in WA State that sell cattle use the same market system called "Saletime" (Everson, Enumclaw, Central Washington, Chehalis, Stockland, and Toppenish) where we have created an enhancement called the Saletime Veterinary Module. The enhancements allow the sale yard veterinarian to capture electronic ID with a wand reader and pair the number with animal health information to generate an electronic CVI, Brucellosis test record and brucellosis vaccination record in the market system. All ADT market data is electronically sent to Animal Tracks, WSDA's ADT database, in real time at the close of each sale. Our seventh livestock market does not sell cattle so ADT efforts were focused on the other six markets.

USDA Inspected Harvest Facilities
As of February 2019, five slaughter facilities in Washington are capturing and sharing official individual identification RFID information at harvest. Currently, WSDA's Animal Tracks can capture 98 percent of all animals with electronic official individual identification RFID tags harvested in our state. WSDA is the first state to implement a tag retirement system in the country and shares this data with USDA.

Supporting Veterinarians, Producers and Markets
WSDA has used local and USDA Cooperative Agreement funds to purchase tags and handheld readers to promote the use of RFID tags by accredited veterinarians. Seventy-eight handheld readers have been distributed free to veterinarians that perform more than 300 brucellosis vaccinations a year. In return, the veterinarian must submit records in an electronic platform.
WSDA collaborated with Oregon Department of Agriculture this year to utilize their OVIS System that allows free access to electronic CVIs, brucellosis vaccination and TB test records.

Official Animal Identification Devices
All regulatory individual animal devices (except USDA AIN "840" devices that can be ordered by a producer from an authorized AIN vendor) are shipped from the state veterinarian's office. USDA 840 RFID (OCV & White tags), Brucellosis vaccination eartags, national uniform ear tagging system (brite tags), state issued AIN brucellosis EID tags, and other state/official individual identification regulatory devices are distributed and correlated to a person and physical address they were shipped to. WSDA defaulted to provide official RFID tags to accredited veterinarians; metal tags are available by request only.
USDA began supporting states with allotments of official RFID tags to support heifer replacements. Washington's allocation is 118,000 tags. WSDA will continue to provide official RFID tags to accredited veterinarians to support all cattle regulatory work for vaccinations, testing, ECTR promotion and inter/intra state movements as funding permits.

RFID Technology
WSDA has chosen to remain technology neutral in WA, the dairy industry represents almost all of the tag use as they adopted RFID technology for herd management in the last decade. We know that 80% of dairy cattle in WA are identified with Low Frequency tags. We have already built the infrastructure and will embrace UHF readers when USDA sets the official standard for UHF and producers are ready to take the step of purchasing the UHF tag and putting them into their cattle. Official, electronic LF 840 RFID is used for regulatory use at markets. We have no funding dedicated to UHF, but we are prepared to add the UHF readers to existing infrastructure when standards are defined, and producer use warrant their use.

Dairy Calf Demonstration Project
WSDA started a calf demonstration project to promote ADT in WA. Approximately 30,000 dairy calves from WA are exported for age and source verified programs. The project pairs electronic official RFID tags with backtag that is applied at farm of origin. Calves that leave the state for age and source verified programs can then be scanned for CVIs, brand inspection/ ECTR and animal health records can be sent electronically to the state of destination.

Interoperability of Traceability Systems
Traceability data elements are shared between Animal Tracks and USDAs Animal Health Events Repository (AHER). AHER enables animal health officials to identify which State, Federal, and third-party databases hold animal identification number records in a disease event. Traceability elements shared is individual identification associated with ICVIs, Federal Vaccination, and Federal Test Records.

ADT Program Survey Results
In November 2020, the WSDA Animal Disease Traceability Program closed a brief survey seeking industry comments on the program's impacts and future direction in the State.

A total of 166 respondents representing all industry sectors contributed feedback.
Eighty-six participants benefited from the ADT program by acquiring free 840 RFID tags distributed to veterinarians for regulatory work, to ECTR program users at enrollment and to public

livestock markets. Twenty-two veterinarians reported that they benefited from receiving a free handheld RFID reader.

The top five choices for what projects the program should consider for the next three years included:
1. Continue Free RFID program and RFID tag reader program for accredited veterinarians and markets,
2. Continue to build ADT infrastructure in the state,
3. Start a Subsidized handheld reader or RFID tag program for producers,
4. Incentives for tagging (free testing, market value), and
5. Capture and record all RFID tag numbers on brand inspection documents.

Other ideas for ADT projects (in no order) included:
1. Distribution of free handheld readers to county level industry associations (Cattlemen's, Dairy, Feeders Associations),
2. Access to free chute side readers for loading and unloading trucks,
3. Expanding Free 840 RFID tags to include ECTR renewal,
4. Incentivize tagging through a Voluntary 840 RFID "certified herd" program for pasture-to-pasture movement and value-added programs, and
5. Improved Outreach and education efforts at interstate markets and industry/ veterinary groups.

2021 – 2024

Animal Tracks

Animal Tracks continues to be Washington's Animal Disease Traceability system. The database is designed to accept or transmit information in PDF, CSV/Excel, and XML formats. Compatibility of database information follows USDA CVI and NASAHO approved XML data standards.

Veterinarian Electronic Regulatory Record Modernization

WSDA utilizes the Oregon Veterinarian Information System (OVIS). This web-based system allows accredited veterinarians to access a free electronic platform to generate NASAHO approved eCVIs in addition to TB test records and brucellosis test/vaccination records. These records are automatically transmitted to the state veterinarian's office when digitally signed. There are currently 729 WA accredited veterinarians and 140 authorized users registered for the system. Note, authorized users are assigned by the veterinarian and can complete records but cannot submit them because they do not have digital signature authority, managed by the state veterinarian office. 2023 ended with 97.3% of all health certificates submitted by Washington veterinarians were electronic. This follows a national trend to electronic CVIs as 87% of CVIs submitted from 44 states to Washington were electronic. The Washington OVIS eCVI was NASAHO approved in October 2023.

Markets

Six livestock markets in WA State sell cattle and utilize an electronic platform, such as Saletime, OVIS or Global Vet Link for veterinarian regulatory work. The state veterinarian receives regulatory animal health information (eCVI, Brucellosis test record and brucellosis vaccination

record) by electronic messaging. We also have the ability to log into a state veterinarian portal in Saletime to see all livestock that have sold in Washington from a market utilizing the Saletime market platform. We also can query for any eCVI generated by another Saletime system that has written an eCVI for cattle traveling to Washington state. Saletime enhancements this period includes installation of ring cameras that capture the audio and video of cattle that move through the ring. Market and state staff can utilize video to validate who the animal is sold to; the market relies on this video to validate the bid price at sale. Livestock inspectors have utilized this video to double check animal markings. Additional project enhancements to the Saletime system to increase traceability is planned for the next 3-year period.

USDA Inspected Harvest Facilities

We have added one additional RFID reader at a USDA inspected slaughter facility. This brings the number of facilities capturing RFID tag information to seven. Tag sighting information is electronically transmitted daily to our traceability database. These seven facilities harvest 99.87%* of cattle slaughtered in the state, increasing our ability to identify RFID tag sightings at harvest. WSDA is the first state to implement a tag retirement system in the country; we also share tag retirement information with USDA.

* Data from 2023 USDA Slaughter Facility ADT Audit Cattle Harvest Report

Supporting Veterinarians, Producers and Markets

WSDA has used local and USDA Cooperative Agreement funds to purchase tags and handheld readers to promote the use of RFID tags by accredited veterinarians. To date, 109 handheld readers have been distributed free to veterinarians that perform more than 300 brucellosis vaccinations a year, livestock markets using electronic systems and selected fairs that applying RFID tags at check in. We will continue RFID reader support during the next 3-year road map.

Official Animal Identification Devices

All regulatory individual animal devices (except USDA AIN "840" devices that can be ordered by a producer from an authorized AIN vendor) are shipped from the state veterinarian's office. USDA 840 RFID (OCV & White tags), Brucellosis vaccination eartags, national uniform ear tagging system (brite tags), state issued AIN brucellosis EID tags, and other state/official individual identification regulatory devices are distributed and correlated to a person and physical address they were shipped to. WSDA defaulted to provide official RFID tags to accredited veterinarians; metal tags are available by request only. USDA began supporting states with allotments of official RFID tags to support heifer replacements. Washington's allocation was 118,000 tags but has been reduced to 26,000 tags for FY 24. WSDA will continue to provide official RFID tags to accredited veterinarians to support all cattle regulatory work for vaccinations, testing, and inter/intra state movements as funding permits. Over the last 3-year period, 71% of official identification devices distributed were RFID, 29% were metal NUES tags.

RFID Technology

WSDA has chosen to remain technology neutral in WA, the dairy industry represents almost all of the tag use as they adopted RFID technology for herd management in the last decade. We know that 80% of dairy cattle in WA are identified with Low Frequency tags. We have already built the infrastructure and will embrace UHF readers when USDA sets the official standard for UHF and producers are ready to take the step of purchasing the UHF tag and putting them into their cattle.

Official, electronic LF 840 RFID is used for regulatory use at markets. We have no funding dedicated to UHF, but we are prepared to add the UHF readers to existing infrastructure when standards are defined, and producer use warrant their use.
For our veterinarians that are reluctant to move from metal NUES tags to 840 RFID, we are supplying them with the Shearwell MET tag. The Shearwell Metal Cattle RFID tag is designed around the NUES metal tag, but also contains RFID capabilities. The producers that are utilizing the Shearwell tag are the ones who do not want the round button RFID tag. This is a good option for some accredited veterinarians, to offer their clients an option to transition to the 840-button tag while having the look of the metal NUES tag.

Dairy Calf Demonstration Project
The calf demonstration project to promote ADT in WA resulted in one farm reporting 31,209 calves moving from WA to an out-of-state slaughter facility. The project will continue in the next 3-year roadmap that intends to pair electronic official RFID tags with calves that leave the state for age and source verified programs. This represented 67% use of the livestock inspection program Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR), an alternative to brand inspection, which requires recording 840 RFID and type of calves leaving the state. The same 840 tag information is also utilized by an accredited veterinarian to submit an eCVI on the calves.
We look forward to expanding this program to other classes of cattle over the next 3-years.

Interoperability of Traceability Systems
Traceability data elements continue to be shared between Animal Tracks and USDAs Animal Health Events Repository (AHER). AHER enables animal health officials to identify which State, Federal, and third-party databases hold animal identification number records in a disease event. Traceability elements shared is individual identification associated with ICVIs, Federal Vaccination, and Federal Test Records.

2024 – 2027
WSDA will work with stakeholders, through in person meetings and updated surveys, to identify projects to close traceability gaps in the state and to support USDA's four goals to advance animal disease traceability. Priority will be given to segments of the cattle industry with the highest risk of spreading disease, specially where animals are commingled or at change ownership. Auction markets, buying stations, exhibition/sale events/ fairs, feedlots and private treaty sale processes will be the focus. In addition to increasing the use of low frequency 840 RFID, enhancements to market systems to assimilate high frequency technology as it becomes available to keep up with commerce and accommodate producers that embrace independent technologies for management. We will continue efforts to increase electronic records. The national trend is for states to continue transition and move away from distributing paper ICVIs but still accept them as their laws allow. Our objective over the next three years is to follow suit and stop distributing paper ICVIs but still accept paper while providing a free electronic ICVI option to accredited veterinarians.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

Animal disease traceability in Washington State is housed under the Washington State Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division, within the Animal Health Program and is under the direct supervision of the State Veterinarian. All regulatory interstate and intrastate livestock movement, cattle and horse change of ownership, livestock test records, and federal and state regulatory animal identification numbers are collected and managed by the division. This information is used for animal disease traceability.

Washington's accredited veterinarians and the livestock industry are our constituents that include cattle (beef and dairy), feeders, packers, slaughter facilities and livestock markets. In addition to these partners, WSDA does not have one specific ADT advisory group but has found greater efficiencies in communicating with different industry groups, livestock committees, and producers to gain feedback and direction for ADT.

2.2 Where are we now?

Please see above in the executive summary under History of ADT in Washington State 2006 to present.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

The strengths of WSDA's ADT program include an administration that supports the program, accredited veterinarian's foresight that supports their clients and electronic platforms and use of technology to track animal movements. Our cattle industry supported our effort to establish local funding that allows the department to collect $0.23 per head to advance ADT in WA. This fund provides us with support for ongoing technology advancements for traceability, unlike most other states.

Additionally, the industry looks at other opportunities and supported our livestock inspection program on a rule change that would allow an option for Washington cattle owners to electronically report change of ownership or out of state movements of cattle. All cattle must have 840 RFID and individually recorded in the Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) system. This information is recorded in our traceability database.

Obstacles to traceability in Washington State are federal exemption for classes of cattle. All beef cattle <18 months of age are exempt from interstate traceability requirements. Licensed cattle dealers are not regulated under animal health, which creates challenges for traceability compliance and federal cooperative funding for resources to advance animal disease traceability. This funding is appropriated annually and does not provide long-term stability to support and promote advancing animal disease work efforts that exceed one-year.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities exist within our livestock community to advance animal disease traceability through continued dialogue on our objectives to create efficiencies in collecting traceability information and securing the availability of that data within 24-hours so epidemiological investigations may begin. The sooner reliable data is available, the sooner the disease can be contained and eradicated. The ability to quickly locate and eliminate a food animal disease will bolster consumer confidence that Washington livestock products are safe. Impediments to rapid response increase the risk of foreign animal diseases impacting wildlife populations and becoming endemic in Washington.

Additionally, Washington State is subject to multiple catastrophic events on an annual basis, such as wildfires, drought, winter storms, flooding, and earthquakes. Our traceability infrastructure is another tool that can be used to provide relief such as linking missing livestock with their owners. This plan also enhances networking opportunities with federal and state agencies. If this plan is not implemented, no other agency will be tasked with doing so. In the past WSDA has been successful in coordinating with other entities regarding traceability.

We will continue to work with our livestock sectors to ensure our state has the most robust ADT system possible; one that protects our state's cattle industry and allows us to trace any animal disease outbreak quickly. This year, the ADT program will play a critical role in exercising our FAD plans in the NADPRP as "WA01.22" or "progressive exercise series." and the PNWER cross border exercise.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

As stated in 2.1 above, Animal disease traceability in Washington State is housed under the Washington State Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division, within the Animal Health Program and is under the direct supervision of the State Veterinarian. All regulatory interstate and intrastate livestock movement, cattle and horse change of ownership, livestock test records, and federal and state regulatory animal identification numbers are collected and managed by the division. The division is housed with other WSDA programs at their main office in Olympia Washington. The agency has satellite locations that can support animal health, compliance, and livestock inspection field staff located throughout the state.

All system resources that support agency programs are centrally located within our information technology program in Olympia. Animal health and ADT staff have access to not only to state animal health information resources but also to USDA animal health and ADT information resources.

The ADT program manages and distributes all accredited veterinarian forms and official identification devices from the Olympia Washington location. All official identification tags distributed from WSDA are housed in our state database. 840

RFID distributed is reported weekly in USDA's Animal Identification Number Management System (AINMS).

Regulatory forms such as eCVIs, Brucellosis Vaccination, and Brucellosis Test records, are available electronically for free. Over 97% of our accredited veterinarians are now utilizing eCVIs. During this three-year road map our plans are to transition away from distributing paper CVI's in favor of electronic processes.

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

Protect Washington livestock and companion animals through collaboration, education, regulation, preparation, and public service.

3.2 Mission Statement

- Protect and enhance animal health and animal well-being
- Promote the economic vitality of the livestock industry by minimizing exposure to animal diseases
- Safeguard the citizens of Washington State by identifying and limiting the exposure to zoonotic diseases.

IV. TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following categories must be described in the Road Map:

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

Washington has developed State-wide infrastructure for advancing ADT that is compatible with State and USDA standards. Our infrastructure is our traceability database called Animal Tracks. Animal Tracks is a 'bookend' animal disease traceability system based on state and federal standards that optimizes acquisition of animal health, ownership, and movement information to ensure consumer, domestic and international market confidence.

Washington supports the four overarching goals set forth by USDA for advancing animal disease traceability. To achieve this, Washington continues to enhance traceability by applying both federal and state funds for the following goals to meet the specific USDA goals/objectives of ADT:

1. Enhance electronic sharing of data among Federal and State animal health officials, veterinarians, and industry; including sharing basic ADT data with the Federal Animal Health Events Repository (AHER);
2. Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification to make the transmission of data more efficient.

3. Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected; and
4. Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State animal health officials.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

Washington supports the four overarching goals set forth by USDA for advancing animal disease traceability. To achieve this, Washington has the following specific tasks planned to meet the specific USDA goals/objectives. Please note the goals are cumulative, building upon prior and future efforts.

FY 2024

Goal 1: Enhance electronic sharing of animal disease traceability data for traceability.

Tasks:

- Support accredited veterinarians with National Assembly Approved Washington OVIS eCVI.
- Support livestock markets/staff to expand full adoption and staff training of the National Assembly Approved Saletime eCVI.
- Expand Saletime eCVI for field use i.e. a Saletime Health Certificate and build a Saletime traceability database to collect animal movement for all market sales utilizing the Saletime system.
- Monitor the national discussion on market CVIs to alternative movement documents in the future. Develop architecture to enhancement the Saletime System with a field movement document and/or an identification reporting tool.
- Continue electronic sharing of ICVI, Federal Vaccination Record, Federal Test Record, and livestock tag retirement data from Washington USDA Inspected harvest facilities from state traceability database (Animal Tracks) to USDAs Animal Health Events Repository (AHER). Sharing of minimal data elements will allow animal health officials to quickly locate information sources in the event of a trace.
- Support WSDA Livestock Inspection (LID) program to capture and collect individual 840 RFID identification at change of ownership inspections:
  - Provide equipment or software upgrades to allow electronic sharing of ADT data to track intrastate movement for private treaty sales.
  - Provide 840 RFID tags to producers registering or renewing accounts in Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) system to promote use and electronic record use for ADT.

- Support enhancements, that will also support traceability, to the Saletime System for change of ownership inspection at livestock markets i.e. inspectors to capture RFID tags and pair with backtags.
  - Support travel of program manager and key supervisors to Saletime markets to benchmark observed inspections for efficiencies.
- Work on electronic pasture to pasture document options and/or work toward eCVIs to harmonize with adjacent states.

Goal 2: Increase use of electronic ID tags for animals requiring individual identification to make the transmission of data more efficient. Enhance electronic sharing of animal disease traceability data for traceability.

Tasks:

- Support livestock markets/staff to expand full adoption of the Saletime Veterinary Module to increase the use of electronic official ID tags for all accredited veterinary work.
- Continue electronic traceability information sharing from state traceability database (Animal Tracks) to USDAs Animal Health Events Repository (AHER). Sharing of minimal data elements will allow animal health officials to quickly locate information sources in the event of a trace.
- Support WSDA Livestock Inspection (LID) program to capture and collect individual 840 RFID identification at change of ownership inspections:
  - Provide equipment or software upgrades to allow electronic sharing of ADT data to track intrastate movement for private treaty sales.
  - Provide 840 RFID tags to producers registering or renewing accounts in Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) system to promote use and electronic record use for ADT.
- Explore opportunities to support upgrades of Saletime System LID module to meet needs of inspectors to capture and record RFID tags at time of inspection.
- Support travel of program manager and key supervisors to Saletime markets to benchmark observed inspections for efficiencies. Brucellosis phase-out or becomes a voluntary program ADT will be impacted.
- Work with stakeholders to maintain or expand mandatory official EID for all breeding animals as the brucellosis vaccination requirement becomes voluntary with updates to 16.54 WAC and 16.86 WAC.
- Encourage USDA continuation of special funding to expand RFID infrastructure to expand distribution of RFID readers to accredited veterinarians to make data transmission more efficient.
- Provide 840 RFID tags for all accredited veterinarian regulatory work including free tags for public livestock market veterinarians. Continue handheld reader access to veterinarians performing brucellosis vaccinations, livestock markets using electronic systems, and selected fairs that applying RFID tags at check in.

Goal 3: Enhance the ability to track animals from birth to slaughter through a system that allows tracking data points to be connected.

Tasks:

- Promote the use, distribution, capture and recording of official RFID identification at birth premises, points of commingling/ movement and at slaughter to make electronic information more readily available.
- Explore other cattle segments to expand RFID infrastructure development and tags use where cattle comingle:
- Team with Washington State University (WSU) extension to expand use of 840 RFID on show/exhibition animals (swine, cattle) with emphasis on 4H, FFA, and county fairs where their livestock is shown.
- Partner with cattle associations to officially identify all cattle moving interstate through pasture to pasture permitting.
- Extend the work to additional cattle sectors for electronic exchange of traceability information and/or provide RFID tags and equipment to obtain full traceability from farm of origin to out of state destination on cattle less than 18-months of age.
- Provide handheld readers to county level cattlemen's associations upon request. Associations would then manage a check out/ loaner system for reading equipment to producers when working cattle.
- Support industry with establishing a "value added" RFID certified program. WSDA would provide tags and infrastructure, but lead by marketing associations (beef commission, cattle/dairy associations, etc.) to promote a local or WA grown product in concert with the WSDA Promotions and Labeling Program.
- Support public livestock markets to maintain /upgrade /replace /address additional equipment needs including computers, RFID readers, internet connection, cameras, etc. to enhance market traceability.
- Develop a plan with Saletime to integrate UHF technology into existing LF RFID infrastructure at PLMs as that technology is adopted.
- Continue to build/upgrade infrastructure to read RFID tags for tag retirement at USDA inspected slaughter facilities.
- Refine upload of RFID tag data into animal tracks.
- Develop pilot projects with feedlots to collect sighting data for cattle upon arrival to their destination.

Goal 4: Elevate the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State animal health officials.

Tasks:

- Continue to work with calf dealers and their veterinarians to utilize electronic CVI systems to provide traceability from farm of origin to out of state destination on dairy calves.
- Work with accredited veterinarian to add 840 RFID tag numbers to electronic ICVIs for exempted cattle per 9 CFR Part 86.

- Continue to perform outreach, education and support to veterinarians using electronic CVI systems, especially OVIS.
- Continue the national trend for states to distribute only the National Assembly Approved eCVIs. Outreach with accredited veterinarians that Washington will discontinue distribution of paper CVIs but will still continue to accept paper.
- Continue to identify efforts on how to make current internal processes at the state veterinary's office more efficient while maintaining system interoperability with other states and USDA.
- Promote eCVIs, free tag program at WSDA/ USDA veterinary accreditation classes.

FY 2025 and FY2026

- WSDA will continue to build on the four overarching traceability goals listed in FY 2024. Due to the changing level of traceability adoption across different agricultural sectors, WSDA will develop an annual cooperative work plan to address traceability advancement in the different sectors. The ADT 3-Year Road map will be updated as needed to reflect updates to our goals.

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

WSDA ADT has a proven track record and will continue completing and documenting USDA's National Priority Traces (NPTs) to record Washington's tracing capabilities.

4.4 Data requirements

Washington ADT uses Animal Tracks as the main traceability system as documented in paragraph 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Animal tracks has 24/7 accessibility to approved users to support traceability.

Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) are voluntarily assigned through the federal State Premises Registration System (SPRS) to record shipments of 840 devices and support stakeholders in programs that require a PIN.

Distribution of official metal (NUES) and RFID tags, accredited veterinarian regulatory forms, and legislatively approved identification programs are dispensed from the state veterinarian's office. Shipments are recorded in Animal Tracks. RFID 840 devices are recorded in both Animal Tracks and USDA Animal Identification Number Management System. To support the increased use of RFID, WSDA has reserved to maintain distribution of NUES tags to accredited veterinarians only upon request.

Paper Interstate CVIs are shared with receiving states at least weekly and eCVIs are shared upon submittal via email. Interstate CVIs in violation of federal regulations are worked through our compliance program and coordinated with our AVIC.

WSDA issues temporary grazing permits (aka interstate commuter herd agreements) to producers in states that share a common border with Washington. Temporary grazing permits are approved by both states and are valid for 6 months. All cattle are inspected prior to movement out-of-state. The cattle listed on the grazing permit are required to move only to the destination specified on the grazing permit and return to the location of origin. WSDA receives ~75 requests for grazing permits in a paper format per year.

4.5 Information technology plan

Information technology (IT) support is crucial to enhancing and maintaining the statewide infrastructure for our animal traceability program. We utilize Animal Tracks to collect and record animal movement information, to make it electronically searchable and also have access to other 3rd party databases to retrieve animal health and movement information.

The ADT Coordinator is the lead person for working with our database developer on enhancements/issues to enhance ADT that has created database features to increase the state veterinarian's ability to collect animal movement information through additional or enhanced digital interfaces such as the ability to upload data from markets and RFID tag numbers from slaughter facilities into animal tracks. We are also exploring future database replacement options in preparation when our current database software reached end-of-service and no longer can support our database framework.

WSDA is continually making investments in software and module enhancements/upgrades to Animal Tracks to keep up to date on traceability advancements and is able to accommodate data generated electronically in other state and commercial animal health record platforms for traceability. This browser-based application houses animal health records such as ICVI's, federal brucellosis vaccination and test records, tuberculosis test records, trichomoniasis test records, import permits, quarantine/hold orders, slaughter facility RFID tag numbers and livestock inspection information.

Animal Tracks is designed for interoperability with other electronic systems and receives data from the Oregon Veterinary Information System (OVIS) and other state and commercial animal health record platforms (VSPS, GVL, etc.) the Saletime system and ECTR that can be imported and stored for ADT.

Animal tracks also houses reportable animal disease data such as laboratory reports, animal identification and location information, quarantine and hold

order information, as well as owner and reporting veterinarian information are captured and can used for traceability efforts.

As new opportunities for advancement of Washington's IT portion of the animal traceability program are identified, they will be fully explored and implemented when and where possible.

4.6 Resource requirements

Key impediments to having a successful animal traceability program are limited to cooperative financial resources. Washington will address or adjust traceability efforts based on cooperative resources.

4.7 Organizational needs

Division organizational transformations are not needed to implement the ADT road map at this time.

4.7.1 Executive support

Washington's current governor and agency director fully support a robust animal disease traceability system for the well-being of the livestock industry in our state.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

ADT in Washington is overseen by the state veterinarian and is aligned under the state veterinarian Animal Health program.

4.7.3 Policy

Legislative processes form the authority for the Animal Health program to support the citizens of Washington State. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW), tile 16 is the governing laws for Animals and Livestock, ADT is one section of those governing laws. Additionally, ADT information is exempt from public disclosure under RCW 42.56.380 Agriculture and livestock.

ADT collaborates with our established livestock associations and commissions (Washington State Dairy Federation, Washington Cattlemen's Association, Washington Feeders Association, Washington Farm Bureau, the Washington Beef Commission, Washington State Dairy Products Commission, Bovine Issues working group) and private cattle sectors, such as the Livestock Identification Advisory Committee, for consulting on animal disease traceability; to ensure traceability is achieved. Updates on ADT program priorities and action are often given at the Livestock Identification Advisory Board meeting that includes key representation across cattle sectors.

4.7.4 Staffing

Animal disease traceability is centralized; all programs fully utilize existing staff with traceability information gathering overlapping with other animal health requirements and requirements in codified statues. The Animal Disease Traceability Program supports an ADT coordinator and two data entry staff.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

The program manager and ADT coordinator is supported by state general funding, state local funds, provided by an industry approved private-based fee of $0.23 cents per head on all Washington cattle sold, slaughtered, or that were moved out-of-state and $0.05 cents per head on all out-of-state cattle slaughter. A portion of this funding supports our livestock inspectors with data capture devices and supplies, data entry staff to enter animal health information into the ADT system and IT support for system software enhancements. Federal resources are utilized to support ADT cooperative agreement annual work plan objectives. Our work efforts will adjust to annual federal cooperative resources allotted to support animal disease traceability work efforts. Currently there are no federal cost share requirements for ADT federal work efforts.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

WSDA provides outreach and education to veterinarians through written, oral and in person communication avenues. The ADT program develops outreach materials to advance animal disease traceability that is distributed through the accredited vet email list, Animal Health listserv, and the quarterly WSU Vet Med Extension e-newsletter.

The State Veterinarian and field staff also give presentations that provide project updates, promote ADT and distribute resources to veterinarians/technicians/ extension agents at the WSU Vet Med extension forum meetings, the Washington State Associations of Veterinary Technicians and at the annual Pacific Northwest Veterinary Conference.

WSDA also engages veterinary and vet tech students and veterinary technicians teaching a class annually for the WSU Veterinary School epidemiology course and county veterinary technician programs where students are introduced to the importance of traceability, learn about official ID and how to accurately complete an eCVI and familiarization with other electronic health, vaccination, and testing options in the state utilizing free 840 RFID tags distributed to accredited veterinarians in the state for regulatory use. Regional field veterinarians share this same information in person when interacting with accredited veterinarians in private practices and at public livestock markets across the state. When accreditation training is conducted, information is provided on electronic systems to produce electronic CVIs such as the free OVIS system for Washington accredited veterinarians. The ADT coordinator and his staff regularly engage veterinarians with one-on-one training of the OVIS system and use of a handheld RFID stick reader.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

What is the plan for accessing traceability movement information from livestock markets, to slaughter facilities when needed?

9 CFR Part 86 allows cattle to move interstate if they are moved directly to recognized slaughtering establishment, or directly to an approved livestock facility and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment and are accompanied by an owner-shipper statement. Washington conducts random audits of livestock market cattle to validate the purpose of sale is for slaughter and cattle are not moved for any other purpose than slaughter. If discrepancies are found, education is our first step in correcting discrepancies.

What is the plan for accessing or requesting traceability information from slaughter plants?

Washington state has twelve USDA inspected slaughter facilities. To increase traceability (sighting) information at these locations, ADT has been installing RFID reading equipment at USDA inspected slaughter facilities over several years. Installation of RFID reading equipment is based on available resources, facilities are prioritized from the largest number harvested to lowest. ADT completed

installation of their seventh RFID reader at Royal Pack LLC. This brings the number of USDA inspected facilities capturing RFID tag sighting information to seven. These seven facilities harvest 99.87%* of cattle slaughtered in the state.
*Data from the ADT program 2023 USDA Slaughter Facility ADT Audit Cattle Harvest Report.

RFID tag retirement - Tag sightings received from the USDA inspected facilities are what we use to identify RFID tags for retirement. WSDA is the first state to implement a tag retirement system in the country; we also share tag retirement (sighting) information with USDA for their systems.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

What constitutes industry? What species are involved?

The ADT program oversees traceability in all species including sheep/goats (scrapie), swine (mandatory state ID program in 16-80 WAC) and cattle as outlined in this document.

Although "industry" includes representatives from all livestock sectors, our USDA CA work focuses on bovine stakeholders (dairy cattle, dairy bull calves, feeders, cow/calf) that buy, sell, move or slaughter cattle. Dairy is the #2 commodity in Washington valued at $1.7 billion and Beef is number 4 valued at over $1 billion.

How is the advisory committee being leveraged for this continuing education purpose?

The ADT program leverages the LID advisory board to give updates, provide resources and ask for feedback on ADT projects.

How is industry being informed?
The state veterinarian attends and presents at all livestock sector meetings including bovine specific annual state association meetings, the bovine issues working group and board meetings to provide up-to-date information on advancing animal disease traceability. Board members take presented information back to their regional meetings where

information is conveyed to their county and district members.

Here is a list of annual bovine meetings attended historically:

- Bovine Issues Working Group
- Washington Cattlemen's Association Board Meeting
- County Cattlemen's Association Meetings
- Washington State Fair Association Meeting
- Washington Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention / Board Meetings
- Washington State Dairy Federation Meeting/ Board Meetings
- Washington State Farm Bureau Meetings
- Washington State Feeders Association Meeting
- WSU Country Living Expo and Cattlemen's Winter School
- County Farm/Ag Expos
- Washington Swine and Sheep Association Meetings
- Livestock Advisory Board Meetings
- County 4H/FFA meetings

In addition to state level meetings, the ADT program has representatives on the USAHA Cattle Health ADT subcommittee and the National Institute of Animal Health and participate in national Trace First meeting that also have members from industry.

The Animal Services division contributes industry articles related to ADT that are published in the industry group publications, such as the "Ketchpen", "Trail Dust" and the Dairy Federation newsletter. Outreach information is also distributed by several different platforms to our accredited veterinarians, producers, and anyone signing up for messaging on the animal health listserv.

How are under-represented and under-served communities being included in the outreach plan?

Part of our effort is to increase transparency and enhance meaningful engagement with all people impacted by our work. Our agency supports under-represented and under-served communities with web-based resources, as well as key information printed in many languages with an emphasis on Spanish translation. WSDA offers phone translation services in several languages to facilitate communication.

The ADT program also participates in our agency's Environmental Justice program through the HEAL act to leverage funds, track benefits of community engagement, identify equity shortfalls and to understand barriers for our communities that own livestock. The ADT coordinator also participates in the agency's pro-equity and anti-racism group (PEAR) to identify gaps and barriers to access resources. ADT has worked with our sale yard veterinarians to identify ethnic buyers and improve communication around animal health and traceability requirements by trying to overcome language and cultural barriers.

ADT has emphasized pilot projects to offer free resources for youth exhibitors, who may not have access to tags, applicators or reading equipment to meet entry requirements for attending exhibition events.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

Interstate CVIs for import and export are reviewed by animal health permitting staff for completion of data and satisfaction of movement requirements. Issuing veterinarians receive a letter of education for all deficiencies, and all ADT violations are reported to the AVIC for further investigation. Animal Health Compliance program works with USDA AVIC and field veterinarians to conduct livestock market compliance audits on cattle traveling interstate. Other compliance actions on covered livestock is shared with the AVIC.

ADT uses Animal Tracks and Saletime to capture and sort information from interstate CVIs, including origin name, city, and state; destination name, city, and state; issuing veterinarian; issue date; certificate number; species; identification and number of animals. ADT works with animal health staff to monitor and reports movement of other covered livestock to support USDA cooperative agreements, as well as NPIP poultry flocks submitting VS 9-3 forms.

Additionally, we provide the volume of ICVI's of both inbound and outbound, proportionally to the number of paper ICVI's, including number of accredited veterinarians issuing ICVI's to report the utilization of electronically searchable eCVI systems by accredited veterinarians.

Animal disease traceability statistics stipulated by the ADT cooperative agreement will be reported quarterly, as required.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

Specific programmatic goals to advance animal disease traceability in Washington are outlined in section 4.2 for each year. Some programmatic goals may take more of a phased-in approach, exceeding the three-year roadmap period to accomplish while other goals can be accomplished withing the timeframe. Prioritization will be determined cooperatively between the ADT program coordinator, state veterinarian, and the AVIC. Achievements or processes to reach goals, to advance animal disease traceability, will be documented in quarterly cooperative agreement reporting.

Some of the <u>NEW</u> key projects include:

- Monitor the national discussion on market CVIs to alternative movement documents in the future. Develop architecture to enhancement the Saletime System with a field movement document and/or an identification reporting tool.
- Support enhancements, that will also support traceability, to the Saletime System for change of ownership inspection at livestock markets i.e. inspectors to capture RFID tags and pair with backtags.
- Work on electronic pasture to pasture document options and/or work toward eCVIs to harmonize with adjacent states.
- Work with stakeholders to maintain or expand mandatory official EID for all breeding animals as the brucellosis vaccination requirement becomes voluntary with updates to 16.54 WAC and 16.86 WAC.
- Partner with cattle associations to officially identify all cattle moving interstate through pasture to pasture permitting.
- Extend the work to additional cattle sectors for electronic exchange of traceability information and/or provide RFID tags and equipment to obtain full traceability from farm of origin to out of state destination on cattle less than 18-months of age.
- Support industry with establishing a "value added" RFID certified program. WSDA would provide tags and infrastructure, but lead by marketing associations (beef commission, cattle/dairy associations, etc.) to promote a local or WA grown product in concert with the WSDA Promotions and Labeling Program.
- Develop a plan with Saletime to integrate UHF technology into existing LF RFID infrastructure at PLMs as that technology is adopted.
- Develop pilot projects with feedlots to collect sighting data for cattle upon arrival at their destination.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

WSDA will follow our roadmap objectives and will proportionally adjust to annual federal cooperative resources to support these objectives. The annual workplan will prioritize, identify and describe how each project/objective will be conducted.