Advancing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Road Map for Pennsylvania

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

DR. ALEX HAMBERG

DIRECTOR

PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF ANIMAL HEALTH

2301 NORTH CAMERON ST. HARRISBURG PA 17110

717-783-2200

Submitted to:

DR. MICHAEL A. KORNREICH
AREA VETERINARIAN FOR PENNSYLVANIA
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2300 VARTAN WAY HARRISBURG PA 17110

717-540-2763

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I.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Service's (BAHDS) Advancing Animal Disease Traceability Road Map for Pennsylvania addresses Pennsylvania's plan for the time period of 2024 – 2027 for enhancing the current animal disease traceability (ADT) system for livestock within the state. This ADT road map will serve as a continuation and revision of The Advancing Animal Disease Traceability Road Map for 2021 – 2024 as ADT efforts continue to evolve and change with both the changes in federal guidance as well as changes in technology.

Animal Disease Traceability is a vital tool for both state and federal animal health officials in their efforts to effectively track, identify, eradicate and control dangerous transmissible animal diseases. This is essential in the management and prevention of disease outbreak scenarios. In order to continue forward progress towards an acceptably accurate, timely and effective system for animal disease traceability the following elements need to be adopted:

-Increased rate of application and distribution of official, unique and accurately databased identification devices (including both radio frequency identification (RFID) devices and National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES) tags to livestock populations statewide.

-Increased data capture of animal movement records.

-A comprehensive database of premises where livestock is maintained, with corresponding geographic coordinates (lat/long).

-The ability to rapidly search electronic databases for records of official identification devices; where they have been distributed and/or applied, where they were sited from animal disease testing, disease program, or animal movement documents.

-Accountability, statewide, for producers, official tagging sites, dealer/haulers and veterinarians who are receiving these tags, in order to maintain an accurate electronic database system.

-Addition of electronic systems (panel readers) in livestock auctions/markets and processing facilities in order to further track animal movement and gain the ability to retire unique identification numbers from tags that are no longer in use.

Traditional systems employing conventional labor-intensive record keeping practices have and continue to serve animal disease control and eradications. However, the ever-changing climate of rapid and high volume intrastate, interstate, and international livestock movement has pressured the past systems to change. With larger animal production units, high-speed travel and long-distance travel, the potential risk of an animal borne health crisis effecting animal health as well as the publics' health continues to increase. Therefore, Pennsylvania must continue to adopt current technology at all levels of ADT in order to address potential disease risks in present day animal movement, production, and management systems.

Due the large impact Agriculture has within the state of Pennsylvania, it is vital that a highly functional animal disease tracing capability exists in order to avoid significant economic loss to farmers, as well as the potential to impact human health.

II.   CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION
2.1   Who are we?

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services (BAHDS) is responsible for the control and eradication of disease in livestock and poultry statewide. In the Bureau's mission to ensure and protect both animal and human health, we are closely aligned with the Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission (AHDC) whose member reach from practicing veterinarians and regulatory health officials, to livestock producers. BAHDS activities, with the inclusion of ADT, are reported to the AHDC bimonthly, during commission meetings.

In order to effectively carry out its animal health mission, BAHDS has closely aligned itself with the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS), which includes two university laboratories, and a third veterinary laboratory facility in Harrisburg.

Pennsylvania livestock producers are the primary internal constituents of the Pennsylvania Animal Disease Traceability Plan. Closely associated are the USDA accredited veterinarians who serve these constituents and assist animal health protection through their activities in disease programs on-farm and in animal commerce.

External constituents include the two dairy herd improvement associations (DHIAs), licensed livestock dealers and haulers, the 30+ USDA-approved livestock markets and official approved tagging sites, all operating within Pennsylvania. Additionally, all out-of-state individuals enter the state for purposes of animal commerce, exhibition, and recreation are external constituents. In this road map, the term 'statewide' applies to all livestock and poultry premises, commerce, exhibitions and other venues within the borders of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In our commitment to the health and protection of Pennsylvania's livestock and poultry industries, BAHDS performs animal disease traceability outreach to all related organizations comprising the animal health stakeholder community. Some of these organizations include:

- … The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
- … PennAg Industries
- … Lancaster Dairy Herd Improvement Association
- … Dairy One, Inc.
- … Pennsylvania Milk Producers Association
- … Pennsylvania Livestock Association
- … Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
- … Pennsylvania Beef Council
- … Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

… Pennsylvania Farmers' Union

… Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association

… Livestock Marketing Association

2.2 Where are we now?

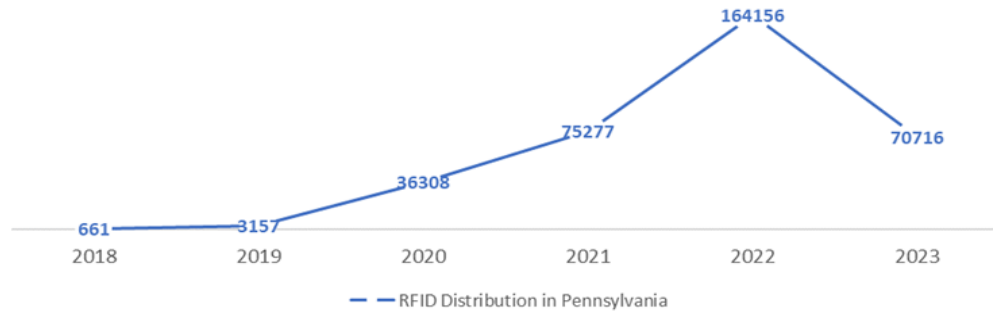Objectives & Accomplishments from 2021-2024

1. **A high application rate of accurately databased animal identification devices, including both RFID tags and NUES tags to livestock populations statewide.**
   NUES tags and RFID tags continued to be distributed as the main form of identification to Pennsylvania livestock producers, approved official tagging sites, accredited level II veterinarians and the two Dairy Herd Improvement Associations who disseminated tags across the state upon request. Livestock markets and dealers, who are identified as approved official tagging sites, receive tags directly from the PDA's regional staff.

   Beginning in 2020, 200,653 free RFID tags became available for application and distribution to Pennsylvania producers, veterinarians and Dairy Herd Improvement Associations at no cost by USDA, APHIS-VS for use in replacement breeding cattle. PDA, BAHDS created an online order form for the use of these entities to order tags. Upon its completion in early September of 2020, distribution of these tags began. Additionally, one of our two Dairy Herd Improvement Associations have joined in the transition to RFID tags through the use of these tags. All parties ordering tags online must either have or apply for a premises identification number for their farm or veterinary practice.

   The distribution and application of official identification devices by the aforementioned entities is reported to BAHDS where data is maintained in the USAHERDS database. Tag distribution and application agreements are in place to require that the submitter send in their tag application/distribution records. These agreements can be sent in electronically, which increases our speed of data entry. When tags are distributed, reminders regarding the responsibilities regarding mandatory record keeping that comes with the reception of these tags. Failure to report application/distribution of official identification that was provided results in the suspension or elimination of tag distribution in its entirety. This ensures the party receiving tags is held accountable for the tags they have distributed and/or applied.

RFID DISTRIBUTION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Data points: 661 (2018), 3157 (2019), 36308 (2020), 75277 (2021), 164156 (2022), 70716 (2023)

— — RFID Distribution in Pennsylvania

2. **A comprehensive electronic database of premises where livestock is maintained, with corresponding geographic coordinates (lat/long) for each.**
Premises identification numbers, both Federal Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) and State Location Identifiers (LIDs) and associating them with the assignment of official identification devices has enabled the BAHDS to better link identification devices to their premises of origin, thus improving animal disease traceability. The principal premises identifier assigned in Pennsylvania is the Federal Premises Identification Number (PIN). The cooperator continued to update and register new premises upon request.

In 2019, a new premises identification application as launched on PDA, BAHDs website for producers to apply online. Through continuous registration updates, a more accurate and up-to-date database will form. We continue to work with IT professionals in order to create an online portal which will allow for producer updates regarding species and counts within their premises.

3. **The ability to rapidly search electronic databases for records of official identification devices; where they have been distributed and/or applied; and where they were sighted from animal disease testing disease-program, or animal movement documents.**
PDA, BAHDs continues to maintain all records of official identification devices distributed and/or applied via tag distribution and application sheets that are provided to all entities (dealers, tagging sites and accredited level II veterinarians) receiving tags. The information from these sheets is then recorded in our USAHERDS database system. All panel readers from our one still operating panel reader system located at a livestock market are also saved within USAHERDS database system. Work is being done to install nine more panel readers at livestock markets and slaughter facilities.

The Recipient continues to work to move towards an entirely electronic system for the storing of animal health information. At this time, all records of the distribution & application of official identification devices are searchable and saved within USAHERDS database system. Electronic records from disease programs (such as CWD & Johnes), vaccination reports, annual program reports, official tagging site

application reports, RFID panel reads, animal testing records and animal movement records from Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (Global Vet Link) are also stored within USAHERDS database system. Paper Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that are received are saved within our internal server electronically.

4. **Adoption of RFID devices for animals currently receiving NUES tags, in accordance with the plan created by the ADT working group in 2017.**
PDA, BAHDs began widespread distribution of RFID tags to producers in 2019 after free RFID tags were allocated to states from USDA, APHIS-VS. These tags are available through the use of our online form. Additionally, one of our two DHIA's has begun to use RFID tags in lieu of NUES tags for their producers. PDA, BAHDs will continue to provide information and aid in the conversion to RFIDs with other producers. PDA, BAHDs will continue to make the remaining NUES tags available to Pennsylvania livestock producers, official tagging sites, accredited level II veterinarians and the two Dairy Herd Improvement association who are in good standing with the Bureau of Animal Health. These tags will continue to be distributed for use by these entities until they are no longer available from the USDA.

PDA, BAHDs continues to have RFID requirements via our swine quarantine order and for large shows/expositions within Pennsylvania. Portable readers continue to be made available for fairs/shows/exhibitions to verify incoming cattle identification via certificates of veterinary inspection. This data is stored in these readers and can be imported into our USAHERDS database system if necessary.

5. **Adoption of both electronic CVIs and Coggins test to better receive animal movement and disease information in real time.**
PDA, BAHDs continues to work towards an entirely electronic database system for the storing of animal health information. Animal testing records and animal movement records from Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (Global Vet Link) are now stored within USAHERDS. Paper Certificates of Veterinary Inspection that are received are saved within our internal server electronically.

PDA, BAHDs continues to distribute information to accredited level II veterinarians regarding electronic CVI programs that are available. The Bureau's IT Team, AgraGuard, Released the Pennsylvania Animal Health Portal in 2022. The primary focus of the initial release was to allow online licensure for dealer haulers. Updates and additional functionality continue to be added. The portal does allow a user to update premises information which furthers our objective of maintaining an up to date electronic database.

6. **Accountability, statewide, for producers, official tagging sites, dealer/haulers and veterinarians who are receiving these tags, to maintains an accurate electronic database system.**
It is vital that stakeholder receiving and distributing tags maintain accurate and searchable records. A spot check of records is done to ensure this goal is met before additional tags are distributed. For Dealer and Haulers, a records check to ensure this goal is met is part of a routine yearly inspection from BAHDS field staff.

2.3   Strengths and Weaknesses

- Weakness
  - Phasing out of NUES tags and implementing EID may cause difficulties for smaller producers.
  - Need for more incentive for Pennsylvania Vets to use E-CVI platforms.
  - Pennsylvania needs to provide more ADT education and form stronger working relationships with producers, markets, and slaughter facilities to ensure we are all working together to achieve ADT success.

- Strengths
  - Stable funding from both federal and state sources.
  - Experienced staff in the field to support ADT initiatives.
  - Access to useful and searchable IT systems USAHERDS, USALIMS, E-cvi platforms.
  - Increase in administrative staff including an emergency response epidemiologist.
  - Lab partnerships with Penn State extensions.
  - Capable data entry support staff.

2.4   Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities

- Increase data gathered by installing panel readers at Markets and Slaughter Facilities.
- Continue to modernize CVI process and implement more ECVI.
- Improve communication between the state and industry stakeholders.
- Increase use of EID technology by partnering with markets, and auctions.

Threats

- Staff workload and turnover.
- Pushback from industry regarding implementation of EID.
- Violations of import requirements.

2.5   Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment.

- Human resources
  - ADT Coordinator
  - 7 clerical staff (25% of time spent on CVI and data entry)

- o 28 field staff responsible for inspections, investigation, and enforcement
- Space availability
  - o Office space is adequate
- Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field
  - o Staff are able to connect in office and in field
  - o Field staff would benefit from a mobile printer to print documents when on site, especially if the farmer does not have email or internet
- Access to USDA ADT and animal health information resources
  - o Staff have access and are proficient in USDA ADT resources
- Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access ADT or animal health information
  - o Import and export CVIs that are not submitted electronically are stored and searchable by date and state of destination or origin
- Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.
  - o All data is stored securely utilizing USAHERDS and USALIMS
- Automated data capture capability
  - o Approved ECVI applications automatically upload to USAHERDS
  - o New panel readers will allow for more automated data capture at markets and slaughter facilities

III. VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

The mission of the Bureau of Animal Health, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is to protect the health of our Commonwealth's domestic livestock populations through prevention and control of dangerous transmissible animal and zoonotic disease and to further protect public health by ensuring a safe, wholesome, adequate and accessible food supply for Commonwealth citizens through the maintenance of a thriving livestock economy.

USDA, APHIS-VS's proposed plan for transition to RFID tags and electronic traceability systems will be a challenge for Pennsylvania moving forward without the aid of additional federal funds and/or mandates. However, the aid received through the allocation of free RFID tags has allowed Pennsylvania to make great strides in flooding the markets with RFID tags.

In 2019, we made several updates to our current systems, including online tag ordering forms and premises ID applications. In 2022, BAHDS launched an online animal health portal. This portal is initially targeted at Dealer/Haulers allowing them an online option to renew their license as well as make any changes to their Premises information. This will allow us to have a more comprehensive and up-to-date database system.

Our ADT program in Pennsylvania must continue to remain responsive to the ever-changing technology and industry needs in order to maintain a proficient Animal Disease Traceability Program. The below represent broad objectives towards the continued improvement of ADT in Pennsylvania over the next three years. These objectives and current supporting activities that are subject to change ADT nationwide continues to grow and change and will continued to be outlined in further detail in USDA, APHIS-VS annual cooperative workplans.

1. Outreach
    1.1 Provide educational and technical support to the livestock industry
        1.1.1 Veterinarians
        1.1.2 Livestock Markets & Dealer/Haulers
        1.1.3 Other industry stakeholders
        1.1.4 Tagging sites
    1.2 Premises registration
2. Technology
    1.1 Information on electronic identification (EID) to cattle industry
        1.1.1 RFID & NUES tags to stakeholders
    1.2 Electronic Animal Movement Data & Development of internal traceability data management systems (USAHERDS, etc.)
        1.2.1 ECVI's for veterinarians
        1.2.2 Panel Reads
        1.2.3 Database system
3. Enforcement
    a. Implementation of Quarantine Orders
    b. Compliance with traceability requirements

IV.   TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS
4.1   Strategic goal(s)

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)

- Continue outreach and education for industry stakeholders specifically targeting the implementation of EID in the short term.
- Maintain and improve relationships with Dairy Health Improvement associations and others that can help with tag distribution.
- Continue to maintain and enforce ADT standards.
- Enhance our ability for timely data capture and entry
    - Installation of panel readers for automatic data capture
    - Expand PA animal health portal to allow producers easier access to update premises and license information
- Educate and encourage veterinarians to utilize available ECVI platforms.
- Respond to all trace request with timeliness and accuracy

4.3 ADT Trace Performance Measures (TPMs)

PDA, BAHDS will continue to provide tracebacks in compliance with federal ADT rule in accordance with the established guidelines in the 'Traceability Performance Measures Guidelines' document provided by USDA, APHIS-VS. These traces are defined below.

1. *Determines the state in which the animal was officially identified and notifies that state of the reference animal's identification number.*
   This task is performed by the state that received the animal.
   The performance parameter measured is the time required for determination of the state where the animal was identified by the recipient and for notification of the state where the animal was officially identified.
2. *State where animal was officially identified determines that it has documentation that an official identification number was issued within its jurisdiction and it has contact information for the person who received that number. This task is performed by the state where the reference animal was identified. The performance parameter measured is the time it takes to determine the location within the state where the animal was officially identified. If identification was applied at a market, the location from where the animal was delivered to the market must be determined.*
3. *Determines the state from which the animal was moved interstate into its jurisdiction and notifies that state of the reference animal's identification number. This task is performed by the state that received the reference animal. The performance parameter is the time it takes to determine the state from which an imported animal was moved from and contact that state.*
4. *Determines address or location from which the animal was shipped.*
   This task is performed by the state that receives notification that a reference animal was moved interstate from its jurisdiction. The performance parameter is the time it takes to determine the location in the state from where the animal was shipped when it moved interstate. If movement was from a market, determine the production unit of the animal before moving to the market.

Each of these traces will be completed in a timely manner as it would in an emergency traceback scenario. Time, resources, and type of document will continue to be documented. The ADT coordinator will perform all tracebacks as issued by the USDA APHIS VS ADT Program staff. The ADT coordinator will also complete all traces that occur in real time animal health emergencies.

4.4   Data requirements

- Data will continue to be stored in USAHERDS and USALIMS.
- Majority of incoming data is ICVIs and tag distribution records.
- Panel readers will help PA to capture more automated data.
- Section 2.2 and 4.5 describes in detail where we are and goals for data collection and storage.

4.5   Information technology plan

Technology *(Electronic Animal Movement Data & Development of internal traceability data management systems (*USAHERDS*, etc.))*

Database Systems

- **USAHERDS**

   PDA, BAHDs uses USAHERDS & USALIMs database systems to support ADT within the commonwealth. These two SQL based database systems are used to record and maintain both animal disease program and identification information. USAHERDS is the database most frequently used by the recipient for ADT program needs. This database is used to maintain all Premises Identification Numbers (PINs), tag application/distribution records and animal movement documents. USAHERDS receives automatic uploads from the electronic CVI service Global VetLink (GVL). Import and export CVIs are also downloaded and saved from the USDA run VSPS system. USAHERDS is used by the recipient to document the receipt of all official identification from USDA, APHIS -VS and then documents its distribution through the main or regional offices to accredited veterinarians, approved tagging sites, producers and our DHIA's.

   USAHERDS also has disease program reports, official tagging site reports, RFID panel reads from livestock markets and animal testing records.

   All data within this database falls under the control of the Bureau and is subject to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law. Requests for data outside normal working hours are addressed the following working day with the exception of any requests associated with an emergency animal disease event where staff would be made available for weekend/after-hours work.

   BAHDS will continue to maintain and explore further opportunities for expansion of its USAHERDS database for maintaining premises data, animal identification device distribution data, and searchable files in addition to the myriad of animal health functions it already performs.

- **Animal Identification Management System (AIMS)**

PDA, BAHDs also uses AIMS to locate tags distributed through other entities such as tag production companies. The Bureau will continue to use AIMs to aid in traceability and issued Trace Performance Measures (TPMs).

- **ArcGIS**

PDA, BAHDS will continue to use the ArcGIS mapping software for outbreak scenarios and surveillance when necessary. The ability to create these 'maps' in ArcGIS has greatly reduced response time for potential outbreaks in making this critical information available in a timelier manner. ArcGIS has been a great tool in allowing the bureau to provide an online address checker in response to Pennsylvania HPAI 2022 incident. The address checker allows a premises to enter their address and quickly see if they are in an infected, buffer, or surveillance zone. The address checker can be found at https://padeptag.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a9066a3d68a44 3a08043766cb84bf4ae

- **Panel Readers**

Passive electronic capture of RFID at livestock markets remains a priority. One remaining market with functional scanners will continue to collect data. With the further implementation of RFID requirements, BAHDS hopes to revisit the installation of more of these panels as RFID tags become more prevalent in markets. In 2023 site visits to potential markets, dealer hauler, and slaughter facilities have occurred in order to identify the most effective locations to install new panel readers. BAHDS hopes to install nine new panel readers statewide during the 2024-2027 period.

- **Electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (eCVI's) for Veterinarians**

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health has, and will continue to promote the use of electronic certificates of veterinary inspection to accredited level II veterinarians. Several electronic options are available for these entities including Global Vetlink (GVL) and VSPS. In 2023, 400 accredited veterinarians in Pennsylvania submitted 9,754 eCVI's through these platforms. BAHDS will continue to promote these applications.

Additionally, BAHDS now has the ability through our USAHERDS system to view all submitted electronic CVIs. USAHERDS now has functioning autointegration capabilities that allow submitted CVIs from GVL to be viewed in our database system.

4.6   Resource requirements

All resource needs appear to be met for PA to implement this strategic plan

- Is specific expertise needed that is not currently available?

- o No, PA has recently added multiple full-time positions and while new positions are not strictly ADT related they relieve some work load and allow the ADT coordinator and clerical staff to spend more time related to ADT.
- Will consultants be needed?
  - o Consultants may be used to help manage emergency response plans and lead tabletop exercises.
- Is a continuity of operation plan (COOP) in place and how frequently is it tested?
  - o Yes, a state-wide COOP is implemented and tested annually.
- Are automated data capture resources needed?
  - o Yes, PA has secured funding for the installation of nine new panel readers across the state.
  - o Additional needs may be: funding to help markets or slaughter facilities with the installation cost of panel readers. Funding to provide RFID readers to veterinarians to assist with the implementation of EID.

4.7 Organizational needs

4.7.1 Executive support

- Executive support for Pennsylvania ADT programs is adequate.
- Executive officials are supportive of ADT goals and objectives and frequently briefed on progress.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- In Pennsylvania the ADT coordinator is the primary contact for implementation of the strategic plan. The ADT coordinator receives support from clerical staff for data entry and searches, and support from field staff for investigations and enforcement.
- Pennsylvania has an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator that works with the ADT Coordinator to prepare and deploy resources if necessary.
- Pennsylvania's ADT coordinator attends federal and state calls, as well as conferences to discuss and share ideas with other states ADT programs. This also serves as an opportunity to make sure our efforts are coordinated and systems work together.
- There has been turnover over the past few years for Pennsylvania's ADT coordinator and so transition documents and training material has been created to outline duties and objectives for new administrative staff.

4.7.3 Policy

- Pennsylvania aligns its ADT policy to the federal ADT rule to maintain consistency and allow us to implement a strategic plan aligned with federal goals.

4.7.4 Staffing

- Currently one full time ADT coordinator, along with leveraging other human resources as part of their duties is enough to implement the plan and meet the standards set.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- Cooperative agreement funds are used to fund one full time ADT coordinator position. This position is fully devoted to meeting ADT goals laid out within this plan.
- The State General fund meets the needs of other staff members whose work contributes to ADT goals.
- Projected 2024 cooperative agreement funding of $111,774 is enough to meet current needs, as well as going forward if current funding levels are maintained.

4.7.6 Outreach

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

- PDA, BAHDS performs outreach to accredited veterinarians. Communications to accredited veterinarians through an email system provides an opportunity for animal health updates, deadline notifications, etc. The ADT Coordinator continues to use this as the main form of communication with accredited veterinarians. Veterinarians are reminded of the responsibilities involved with receiving tags from the PDA and reporting their tag usage. PDA, BAHDS cooperates with USDA, APHIS, VS to deliver accreditation training to veterinarians, part of which includes Animal Disease Traceability. Veterinarians are also provided updates on Electronic CVI platforms available for their use in an effort to consolidate CVIS to electronic versions that are much more searchable than paper. Pennsylvania maintains current and accurate files of accredited veterinarians in addition to maintaining this information in the USAHERDS database.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

- Slaughter facilities receive routine inspections at which the inspector will share any new or relevant information. Slaughter plants are involved in our short-term plan to install nine panel readers. Installing these readers at slaughter facilities will give PDA automated data capture in the slaughter channel allowing us to work with USDA to retire tags that are no longer active.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

- **The livestock industry**
- Efforts to inform livestock stakeholders on procedures for assignment, application, compliant use, and documentation continue. Discussion with dealer/haulers, livestock markets and other entities continue to increase ADT compliance statewide. Most of this activity occurring as field staff encounters noncompliant members of these groups at livestock markets, educational shows, fairs and other events. The ADT coordinator remains in contact with current official approved tagging sites to ensure appropriate tagging procedures are taking place and accurate records are being kept. Field staff continue to provide information to producers, veterinarians, and livestock markets as time permits and upon request. Informational postings and updates

continue to be made to the PA Department of Agriculture website as needed to aid in the distribution of information and remain a resource for the public.

- PDA, BAHDS' 29 field staff members spend time working on all aspects of Animal Disease Traceability including education, outreach, compliance checks and disease investigation.

- Outreach presentations have been offered by the Livestock Programs Coordinator for Animal Disease Traceability and the State Veterinarian at such venues as the PA Beef Council, PA Cattlemen's College, purebred dairy cattle association meetings, livestock markets, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association and at seminars conducted at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

- **Livestock Markets & Dealer/Haulers**
- Dealer Haulers continue to be reminded of their responsibilities for reporting tag usage, and how not doing so could negatively impact their receiving of USDA issued NUES tags from the PDA. They will continue to be monitored and undergo regular record checks. Penalties will continue to incur as necessary.

- Markets and Dealer Haulers also continue to be informed of the upcoming change of availability of Metal NUES tags and the shift towards EID. Making the change from NUES to EID will come with significant cost to these entities and Pennsylvania continues to explore options to make the transition easier on stake holders.

- PDA has formed a list of Livestock Markets within Pennsylvania and does frequent inspections of these entities. PDA, BAHDS will continue to monitor tag use at official tagging sites and tag use of licensed dealer/haulers through regulatory records.

- PDA, BAHDs will continue to work cooperatively on enforcement and education with USDA, APHIS-VS staff.

- **Tagging Sites**
- Tagging sites will continue to have regular record checks completed by field staff. They also receive records checks from the ADT coordinator

upon request of additional tags. Penalties will incur for non-compliance.

- In 2020, the tagging site has been redrafted, and will be resigned by all sites currently in operation. The new tagging site agreement is drafted to include all parties involved in the tagging of animals at different sites.

- **Other industry stakeholders**
- ADT updates and program information are presented and discussed at Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission (AHDC) meetings as well as to various AHDC committee meetings held throughout the year. The Bureau continues to make presentations to cervid stakeholders. These presentations are intended to familiarize the industry with certification program standards, the spread of CWD and new requirements, and include ADT information regarding compliant use of official identification devices. Continuing this type of outreach regarding ADT is vital to improve traceability moving forward. The bureau also plans to distribute 600 microchips to Pennsylvania deer farmers to advance our objective to have more EIDs that are more easily traced and searched.

4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

BAHDS continues to monitor CVIs to determine error rates and compliance issues, particularly with improper use of or lack of official identification on movement documents.

We continue to report the following data with quarterly reports:
- Number of export CVIs created.
- Number of import CVIs received.
- Number of imported bovines by class officially identified.
- Number of exported bovines by class officially identified.
- Volume of official identification distributed.

V. ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Continue to monitor ICVI movements and maintain accurate searchable data of movements.
- Increase the usage of E-CVI platforms by Pennsylvania accredited veterinarians.
- Install nine new panel readers at markets and slaughter facilities to advance automatic data capture.
- Educate and promote use of EID for cattle.

- Maintain communication and effective working relationships with our industry stakeholders.
- Expand our use of technology to achieve ADT objectives including:
  - A more easily searchable database of ICVI.
  - Reduce time required for accurate traces.
  - Enhance education efforts.
  - Allow stakeholders to easily submit updated information.
  - Make information sharing between USDA and other state easier.

5.2   Implementation of objectives

- Many objectives are already being implemented and will continue to be expanded as additional resources are available. The installation of nine panel readers is a new objective that will take priority in Year 1 of this plan to coincide with a proposed final rule that will expand use of EID. Due to recent turnover in the ADT coordinator position Year 1 of this plan will also have a heavy focus on education and outreach as the ADT coordinator forms working relationships with veterinarians and industry partners. As technology continues to expand, Pennsylvania will continue look at opportunities to modernize our platforms and improve efficiency of ADT data collection and shareability of the data.