

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR WEST VIRGINIA

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

JAYME C. GARRETT

**ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY COORDINATOR
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
CHARLESTON WV 25305
304-644-7361**

Submitted to:

**MICHAEL A. KORNREICH, DVM
AREA-VETERINARIAN-IN-CHARGE FOR WV/PA
VETERINARY SERVICES
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**2300 VARTAN WAY
HARRISBURG, PA 17110
717-540-2763**

January 2024

Table of Contents

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II.	CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION	3
	2.1 Who are we?	3
	2.2 Where are we now?.....	3
	2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses	4
	2.4 Opportunities and Threats.....	5
	2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment.....	6
III.	VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY	6
	3.1 Vision statement	6
	3.2 Mission statement	7
IV.	TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS	7
	4.1 Strategic goal(s).....	7
	4.2 Programmatic goal(s) (Objectives).....	7
	4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures	7
	4.4 Data requirements	8
	4.5 Information technology plan.....	8
	4.6 Resource requirements.....	8
	4.7 Organizational needs.....	8
	4.7.1 Executive support.....	8
	4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures.....	9
	4.7.3 Policy.....	9
	4.7.4 Staffing	9
	4.7.5 Budget requirements	9
	4.7.6 Outreach	10
	4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians.....	10
	4.7.6.2 Livestock markets	10
	4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole.....	11
	4.8 Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity	11
V.	TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION	12
	5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement	12
	5.2 Implementation of objectives.....	12/13

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Traceability is essential to ensuring healthy livestock populations by the capability to efficiently and effectively identify, track, control, and eradicate livestock diseases in West Virginia. The previous and continued work of all involved in the Animal Disease Traceability program will ensure this program continues a successful path in WV. This ADT roadmap is a continuation and revision of the previous 2019-2021 ADT Roadmap, as traceability continues to evolve.

It is imperative that we continue the education of West Virginia producers on the requirements of the Animal Disease Traceability rule. We are continuing with education and outreach, the distribution of official identification tags, data sharing, and monitoring and reporting interstate movement. We benefit from these factors in a quicker response to controlled diseases and a faster normalization of industry and commerce. This plan builds upon previous efforts by the USDA VS information systems for traceability, premises numbers, and official identification.

WVDA utilizes an electronic database of tags on the AIMs and USAHerds systems, which in part helps us to respond quicker to requests from other states and the USDA. WVDA has relied heavily on the USDA cooperative agreement funding to fulfill and achieve the progress that has been made so far in WV with traceability. WVDA AH is committed to continuing with ADT work as funding allows.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

This road map is prepared and implemented by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division (WVDA AH). WVDA AH works alongside the WV University Extension service by realizing their ability to have day to day contact with producers for outreach and education. WVDA AH uses traceability data for disease traces, tissue residue and/or compliance investigations, and lost or stolen animal inquiries, etc. Industry protection and the maintenance of animal movement and commerce continue to guide the program in WV.

2.2 Where are we now?

WVDA AH has been defined as a combination of blended and stand-alone programs. We are combined in animal health with our tagging, market inspections, monitoring of slaughter animals, and vaccinations, but we stand alone in our Premise ID work. WVDA has registered 11,528 premises to date in WV, allowing for approximately 90% of our premises registered in the state. From October of 2012 to September 2020, WVDA animal health field technicians tagged all breeding beef cattle and all dairy cattle in our WV markets. Slaughter cattle were also tagged and identified in certain markets which resulted in approximately 80,229 cattle tagged or official ID recorded in our markets alone. Beginning in September 2020, we finalized the tagging transition in our livestock markets. 7 of our 8 livestock markets have signed WVDA tagging site agreements, taking over the identification and recordkeeping for interstate movement traceability from WVDA

AH staff. Handheld readers were provided for usage in these livestock markets with USDA ADT funding for tag recording. RFID tags from state funding are also provided to those approved tagging site livestock markets. Tag reports are sent from the livestock markets to the ADTC who then enters this data in the AIMS database. WVDA staff are now monitoring and providing outreach and education at our livestock markets on ADT regulations. We have encouraged ID in all state and cattle production sales, which has resulted in most of these cattle being identified with RFID tags. The ADTC currently retires RFID tags in AIMS on livestock slaughtered under inspection in our WV slaughter facilities. These tag numbers are recorded by WVDA AH meat and poultry inspectors and provided back to the ADTC. WVDA has been able to provide our WV livestock producers for many years with free RFID tags for usage from state funding. We have seen not only cattle producers participate, but also many captive cervid and swine producers. We currently complete any National Priority trace exercises that USDA-VS ADT staff request. These traces are completed and recorded in EMRS2. The ADTC also on occasion performs in house traces on our livestock markets by selecting an animal that is already officially identified and tracing buyer/seller information. We continue to complete any disease or compliance violation trace backs as they occur. WVDA animal health field technicians continue to monitor for ID compliance in livestock moving interstate into WV at fairs, festivals, and livestock shows. The ADTC and office assistant monitor ICVI's for compliance, including ADT regulations.

The ADTC currently coordinates activities with other agencies on an individual basis. We have regular communication with individuals within WVDA, the WVU Extension service, and the USDA. Currently, the technology available revolves around USAHERDS, SPIS, AIMS, VSPS, GlobalVetlink, and USALIMS. We currently have 7 of our 8 livestock markets as official WV tagging sites for data capture and tracking. WVDA AHT's all have access to tablets with the Mobile ID app for capturing data in the field. We continue to place efforts to expand our ICVI database with focus on electronic records.

Currently, there is no independent state funding for the ADT program, other than WV state funding for the purchase of RFID 840 tags. There is no guarantee on the duration of this state funding due to continued budgetary constraints. Accordingly, WV Animal Disease Traceability programs rely almost exclusively on federal funding for outreach efforts, technology advancements, travel, expanding our ICVI database etc. Without the continued support from the USDA, WV Animal Disease traceability advancement would not be possible.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

Our strengths include having a small state with an extremely friendly producer population that traditionally view the WVDA and the WVU extension service as helpful and supportive organizations. In addition, we recognize our weaknesses and are working to improve upon them. We may be lacking in personnel, but the people we have understand the requirements and have a determination to help the producers in WV thrive. We currently have 90% of our premises registered and have been updating them with current 911 addresses. Each animal health field technician has access to a tablet and wand for disease work in the field. These devices help with electronic storage of ID's within WV. This allows us to respond to requests for information quicker. Even with such a small staff, we continue to present a large amount of outreach and education to the producers of WV on tagging requirements and the encouragement of using RFID technology for official identification. WVDA AH has been able to encourage the usage of RFID

840 tags for official identification with our producers, livestock markets, production sales, and county fairs over the years. We have even tagged all our WVDA breeding cattle on our state farms with RFID 840 tags for better record keeping, including farm management and routine disease testing.

Our weaknesses continue to be lack of funding and personnel. We need both to update our ICVI database, which is a limiting factor in trace time. We continue to work hard to have office staff trained to enter our hard copy cattle ICVI's into USAHerds for easier searchability. We are continuing to work to expand all hard copy livestock ICVI's to be entered into USAHerds. We are continuing to update this system but with limited funding and one office assistant who also has other duties, we are challenged. Limited personnel and employee turnover also create an obstacle in outreach, education, tagging, and support to the producers of WV.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

There have been many opportunities to expand ADT in WV over the past several years. WVDA AH has worked hard to provide outreach and education throughout the state, resulting in many producers becoming aware of tagging regulations related to interstate movement. WVDA AH has worked to have cattle tagged at production sales and monitor interstate movement tagging compliance at shows and fairs. Having the ability to provide free RFID tags to producers for many years has allowed for greater exposure and a positive outlook on the tagging requirements.

WV currently has no specific standards but does identify public livestock markets as being at high risk for the transportation of animal diseases through animal movement. We believe by having most of our livestock markets as official tagging sites, we will be better able to trace cattle in the instance of an outbreak and allow our producers to become better exposed to RFID tags and their usage.

In the event of an agricultural incident/emergency/disease outbreak, WVDA has developed an Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is activated to manage any type of agriculture incident/emergency. The IMT operates within the structure of the Incident Command System (ICS). The IMT has three people identified for each of the Command and Staff positions in addition to personnel to fill other operational components. The IMT participates in various types of training opportunities. In addition to personnel, WVDA has trucks/trailers, equipment and supplies available to respond to incidents. The WVDA has taken a proactive approach to informing and educating the public regarding what bio-security measures to follow. The ADTC has participated in IMT training through the WVDA and is listed in the WVDA IMT structure as Operations Section Chief. Information made available from the ADTC would add much needed information to the database in this area.

Currently, it is possible to search our older paper based CVI system within a reasonable time of receiving a request. However, results of this system are mixed. Not from a standpoint of our ability to search, but by the receipt of CVI's from the veterinarian of origin. Our main weakness is when a CVI has not been forwarded to us by the veterinarian. This problem affects both incoming and outgoing certificates. We do continue to encourage electronic ICVI usage with our accredited veterinarians. Using USAHerds to enter these current hard copy ICVI's is greatly assisting us with decreasing our searching time. The WVDA maintains normal office hours with a 24/7 emergency line. Several personnel within the Animal Health Division are available to respond to emergency calls, as well as the ADTC if necessary.

Have previous efforts to coordinate with other entities within the applicant’s boundaries, and outside the applicant’s boundaries, been complicated or unavailable for not having this plan in place?

Yes. Prior to development and initial implementation of the WV Animal Disease Traceability program, efforts to provide animal identification, and ultimately traceability, have been mostly unavailable.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

From October of 2012 to September 2020, WVDA Animal Health Field Technicians have tagged breeding cattle and all dairy cattle in our WV markets, which has resulted in approximately 80,229 cattle tagged or official ID recorded in the markets alone. This information was collected by WVDA animal health field technicians and was recorded in the AIMS database by the ADTC. This work resulted in a large collection of data and cattle identified in WV. Records of all tags issued by the WVDA to private veterinarians, livestock producers, and livestock markets are maintained in USAHerds and AIMS databases. Electronic OCV vaccination tags are currently being used and are distributed to veterinarians.

Human resources: Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator.

Space: Sufficient facilities are available for additional personnel and all necessary equipment.

Connectivity: All WVDA AH field technicians and the ADTC have access to tablets, wands, laptops, I-phones and have been trained on radios.

USDA Resources: USAHERDS, AIMS, AHER

Organization of paper records: We have a filing system in place for ICVI’s, quarterly reports, market bulletins, and testing records. We also utilize SPIS and USAHERDS. AIMS is also used for all tags distributed to producers and applied in livestock markets.

3 VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The mission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is to protect plant, animal and human health and the state’s food supply through a variety of scientific and regulatory programs; to provide vision, strategic planning and emergency response for agricultural and other civil emergencies; to promote industrial safety and protect consumers through educational and regulatory programs; and to foster economic growth by promoting West Virginia agriculture and agribusinesses throughout the state and abroad.

3.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the Animal Health Program is to enforce certain agriculture laws and the regulations legally promulgated in carrying out the mandates of the laws. The charge is to prevent, suppress, and control any communicable diseases of animals or poultry.

4 TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

West Virginia's goal is to develop and implement a State-wide infrastructure for advancing animal disease traceability compatible with State and USDA standards in order to ensure the health and safety of the livestock population.

4.2 Programmatic goals (objectives)

- Target, develop, and implement outreach messaging to producers
- Monitor ICVI data
- Input data into appropriate systems in a timely fashion
- Improve retrieval of available traceability information
- Establish compatible standards for sharing data with States and USDA when needed
- Integrate surveillance and traceability data
- Expand staffing for program
- Enhance IT infrastructure
- Increased usage of eCVIs by veterinarians

4.3 Animal disease traceability performance measures (required)

Currently, traceability capability is measured by the four performance standards defined by USDA APHIS VS. National Priority Traces are generated by VS staff and completed by ADTC and AH support staff as needed. NPT's completed for the four performance standards thus far have been adequate and are recorded in EMRS2.

4.4 Data requirements

Premise identification shall follow standards set by the USDA VS and SPIS. USAHerds software shall allocate location identification. WVDA has decided to supply WV official tagging site livestock markets with RFID tags for interstate movement identification contingent on state funding. We will also supply veterinarians with electronic identification in the form of OCV RFID tags. We encourage RFID OCV tags. In order to encourage upgraded traceability technology, we will provide producers with 25-30 RFID tags per calendar year from state funding. This includes not only cattle producers, but also captive cervid and swine producers. Tags will be distributed out of the WVDA AH office in Charleston. Tags will be recorded with the Premise ID in USAHerds before shipment. The ADTC then enters all tags into the AIM's system. WVDA AH will also work to distribute the USDA's free RFID tags to cattle producers for usage in replacement heifers. Livestock identified with RFID tags and slaughtered under inspection at WV slaughter facilities will continue to have their tags retired. This information is captured by WVDA AH meat and poultry inspectors and retired in AIMS by the ADTC. Commuter herds must have a MOU between states. Owner shipper statements are approved for interstate movement on animals traveling to an approved livestock market. Traceability data will be shared upon request with USDA APHIS VS and other states. Traceability sighting data from WVDA AH is shared with AHER.

4.5 Information technology plan

USAHerds is utilized for WV ADT data. WVDA also incorporates tablets with the MobileID for field work as needed to record and import data to the AIMS system.

4.1 Resource requirements

- WVDA has identified electronic ICVI records as an area within ADT that continues to need upgrading. This has been a challenge for us due to limited staffing and funding. WVDA uses USAHerds and is committed to continue utilizing this program for increased ICVI data capture.

4.2 Organizational needs

- **Does a need for organizational change exist? Is it recognized?** No.
- **Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure?** No.

4.2.1 Executive support

- WVDA Executive Staff are kept apprised of ADT regulations and staff work through communications via the

State Vet or ADTC. They are supportive of ADT and official identification.

4.2.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- The ADT program in WV is primarily handled by the ADTC and State Veterinarian. Support staff include the animal health field technicians and supervisor, office assistant, and program data analyst. These staff work together daily and communicate regularly. Staff keep up to date on emergency preparedness and biosecurity through training offered through WVDA.

4.2.3 Policy

- **How do existing mandates assist, limit, or modify what is intended to be achieved?** WVDA AH follows USDA ADT regulations relating to tagging identification and interstate movement.
- **Is there a need to address any specific mandates and act to modify them to align them with current goals and objectives?** Not currently.

4.2.4 Staffing

- The ADT program in WV is a distinct function for the Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator. Support staff include the State Veterinarian, animal health field technicians, office assistant, lab assistant, and program analyst.

Budget requirements

- The Animal Disease Traceability program in WV is funded almost exclusively from the USDA ADT Cooperative Agreement, except for state funding allotted for the purchase of RFID official ID tags to be used in the livestock markets and for producers/veterinarians in the state.
- FY 2024 proposed budget of \$110,708. An estimate for FY 2025 and 2026 would be for the same amounts.

4.2.5 Outreach

4.7.6.1. Accredited veterinarians

- Accredited veterinarians in WV are provided with RFID OCV tags by the WVDA. They are provided with a spreadsheet to record tag records on to also be sent back to WVDA for record keeping.
- Each veterinarian that submits an ICVI into our office that is non-compliant receives a letter back stating the nature of the incompliance. Repeat offenders receive a phone call or referred to the USDA.
- Accredited veterinarians are notified of any changes to ADT rule through communication from WV State Vet. Future plans include notification and encouragement of using electronic methods of ICVI's rather than traditional paper copies. AH staff and ADTC routinely answer questions from accredited veterinarians and encourage electronic ICVI's.
- Often accredited veterinarians serve as a source of outreach to their clients on official identification and the ADTC receives many requests for RFID 840 tags this way.
- The ADTC in the past has been able to assist accredited veterinarians with field work utilizing a wand and PDA to capture RFID tags. This has allowed for the education on technology and encouraged many large-scale producers to utilize RFID 840 tags in their herd management.

4.7.6.2. Livestock markets

- ADTC or AH staff member attend yearly required Livestock Market Meeting with market owners, LMA staff, P&S representation, USDA, etc. to update markets of any changes or concerns with ADT. ADTC also visits markets on an as needed basis or when time permits. WVDA AH field technicians are present on sale days each week to interact with sale owners,

management, and producers. They also provide monitoring and updates on the ADT program at our livestock markets, with any violations or concerns being shared with our WV USDA counterparts.

- **4.7.6.3. Industry as a whole**

- The agriculture industry in WV is informed of ADT regulations and changes through education and outreach through the ADTC and AH field staff. Outreach is presented through various meetings during the year. Fair board meetings, WV Fairs & Festivals Association meeting, extension dinner meetings, WV State Fair planning meetings, production sale meetings, WV Agriculture Day at the State Capitol during the annual legislative session, and bull test meetings are just a few examples. Information sharing with the WVU Extension service allows for broader outreach as they deal with producers daily. Articles are published as needed in the statewide WVDA Market Bulletin highlighting ADT regulations and changes. The WVDA website includes ADT information. The WV State Veterinarian communicates with accredited veterinarians in the state and can provide up to date ADT information to this agriculture sector.

4.8. Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

- The ADTC and an office assistant monitor the incoming and outgoing ICVI's for compliance. The office assistant keeps records of the number of animal shipments moved interstate in a spreadsheet. ADT Violations are reported quarterly to the USDA.

5 TRACEABILITY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

1. WVDA plans to continue with education and outreach to producers and agriculture groups throughout WV, especially as new changes could take place within the ADT program. This includes continuing to work with our official tagging site livestock markets on identification and record keeping.
2. WVDA will continue encouraging the usage of RFID 840 tags for official identification over the traditional “NUES” tags. We hope to continue to distribute RFID tags to producers along with OCV RFID tags to veterinarians, if the funding is available.
3. WVDA plans to continue to encourage the usage of electronic ICVI methods with our accredited veterinarians in the state.
4. WVDA will continue working to accumulate electronic ADT records related to tagging data, ICVI’s, tag retirement at slaughter, etc.

These priorities will continue to be built on the previous work by our staff for the ADT program.

5.2 Implementation of objectives

1. This objective will be completed by WVDA animal health staff attending our official tagging site livestock markets sales to assist in education regarding official identification requirements and the correct record keeping. Our AH staff will also provide ADT outreach at producer meetings, events, through daily phone calls, and at fairs/festivals/shows.
2. WVDA receives daily phone calls requesting official identification and we continue to promote and provide RFID tags/technology to these producers over NUES tags. We can provide USDA funded replacement heifer RFID tags to our WV cattle producers and state funded RFID tags to our livestock producers. RFID tag outreach will continue to be provided at producer meetings and events. Support staff are trained in RFID tag requests to be able to answer questions via phone calls.
3. This objective continues to be a challenge. Staff encourage usage of electronic ICVI’s when communicating with WV accredited veterinarians. Future goals would include having more of our accredited veterinarians transition to electronic ICVI methods.
4. WVDA continues to work on capturing electronic tag data. Our meat and poultry inspectors capture RFID tag data at our state inspected slaughter facilities for all species and those tags are retired. Tagging data continues to be recorded at WV official tagging site livestock markets.

All tag distribution records from our office are recorded as are test charts. Livestock ICVI records are uploaded into our USAHerds database Future goals would be to have more staff trained on uploading tag data into our USAHerds database, but with a limited staff this will involve cross training.