

USDA Animal Disease Traceability

(Not Necessarily Identification)

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Key Principles

- Allows for maximum flexibility for States, Tribal Nations, and producers to work together to find identification solutions that meet their local needs
- Only applies to animals moving interstate
- Will be owned, led, and administered by the States and Tribal Nations with Federal support focused entirely on animal disease traceability
- Encourages the use of low-cost technology
- Ensures that animal disease traceability data are maintained at the discretion of the States and Tribal Nations

Changes from August 2011 Proposed Rule

- Accepting the use of brands, tattoos and brand registration as official identification when accepted by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes
- Permanently maintaining the use of backtags as an alternative to eartags for cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter
- Accepting movement documentation other than an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) for all ages and classes of cattle when accepted by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes
- Clarifying that exemption to the regulation applies to all livestock moved interstate to a custom slaughter facility
- Exempting chicks moved interstate from a hatchery from the official identification requirements

Beef cattle under 18 months of age are exempt (except for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, recreational events)

Basic Requirements for Interstate Movement

Unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate would have to be “officially identified” and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other documentation agreed upon by the shipping and receiving States, such as an owner-shipper statement or a brand certificate.

What is 'official' identification?

A nationally unique number such as:

- National Uniform Eartagging System, such as silver USDA tag
- Animal Identification Number (AIN)
- Location-based number system (e.g., sheep scrapie tags)
- Any other numbering system approved by the Administrator for the official identification of animals.



Low- Cost ?

For cattle, the NUES metal eartag may be used, with USDA plans to provide at no cost if funding is available

Other forms, such as RFID, are OK, but cannot be required for interstate movement

How does traceability work?

Tag distribution records link number with person receiving the tag/ID.

This provides animal health officials a starting point

Documentation

Approved livestock facilities must keep interstate CVI (certificate of veterinary inspection—with id's) or other approved documentation for 5 years-cattle.

How is lack of ID in cattle hurting us?

In a disease event, low levels of ID require more herds and cattle to be tested than necessary, and the potential for disease spread increases

Export markets may be decreased

Exemptions

Movements across state lines but entirely within Tribal lands that straddle the state line, and the tribe has its own traceability system

Movement is to a custom slaughter facility

Beef cattle under 18 months of age

Traceability Information

Maintained at the discretion of the states and tribes

Confidential, as information is maintained under existing disease program regulations which are exempt from FOIA

Questions ?

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>

