ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY
Why Animal Disease Traceability?

Animal disease traceability, or the location and travel history of animals, is essential information used by the livestock industry while responding to animal disease outbreaks. Knowing these facts when investigating diseased or at-risk animals is critical in containing disease as quickly as possible.

Animal disease traceability information includes:
- individual and group animal identification
- animal location and owner information
- animal movement information (interstate, sales, show)
- animal test and/or vaccination information

South Dakota livestock producers and State and Federal animal health officials have worked together over the years to eliminate and/or control diseases such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, pseudorabies, EIA, and scrapie using animal traceability information. Maintenance of an efficient, reliable system of animal disease traceability is essential to limit negative effects and to preserve animal health when a disease outbreak occurs. Effective traceability can also limit the number of herds impacted by an outbreak and reduce the economic impact to herd owners and affected communities, as well as the livestock industry as a whole.

Animal Disease Traceability Records in SD

Records Maintained by State and Federal Animal Health Officials - The SD Animal Industry Board (SDAIB) and the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office collect and maintain animal health and movement information in both hard copy and electronic form. These paper files and computer databases are used routinely by animal health officials while investigating animal disease events. The usefulness of these traceability records depends on the quality and timeliness of
records submitted by livestock industry stakeholders.

Animal Disease traceability records maintained by SDAIB and USDA APHIS VS include:

* Import and Export Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) or health certificates
  - Livestock entering SD must have an ICVI and an import permit number with a few exceptions
  - All import information is entered into a database maintained by SDAIB
  - All livestock leaving SD must comply with the destination State requirements. Copies of export ICVI’s are kept by SDAIB and forwarded to the State of destination

* Change-of-ownership
  - All breeding cattle and bison over 18 months of age sold within the State are required to have official ID read, recorded and reported to the SDAIB by accredited veterinarians.
  - Public sales – reports submitted by SD livestock auction markets and veterinarians
  - Private sales – reports submitted by accredited veterinarians

* Backtags
  - Applied at auction markets to provide traceback on slaughter animals
  - Information entered into database maintained by SDAIB

* Program disease activity – records maintained jointly by SDAIB and SD USDA/APHIS office
  - Brucellosis vaccination and testing
  - TB testing
  - Scrapie tag distribution and testing
  - Chronic Wasting Disease testing
Livestock Industry Records

The SDAIB also relies on records kept by the livestock industry when tracing an animal disease event. Complete and accurate records kept by livestock auction markets and dealers, by accredited veterinarians, and by livestock producers provide important information when dealing with an animal disease event.

Records maintained by the livestock industry available to SDAIB for tracking disease include:

- Johne’s testing and herd classification
- Coggins tests

- Poultry movements
  - USDA VS Form 9-3
  - National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) participants may use USDA’s VS Form 9-3 to record interstate movements of poultry
  - VS Form 9-3 information is entered into a database maintained by SDAIB
  - SD Intrastate Report of Sales form
    - Licensed hatcheries may use the SD Intrastate Report of Sales to record intrastate sales of eggs, chicks, and poults
  - Intrastate poultry movement records are kept on file at SDAIB
* SD Brand Board
  - Brand inspection requirement on livestock movement applies to all counties west of the Missouri River
  - Documents used to record livestock movements from the inspection area include:
    - Local ownership inspection certificates
    - Livestock market clearances
    - Shippers permits
    - Lifetime horse transportation permits
* Livestock auction markets and dealers
  - Backtag records, sale records, scrapie tag application records
* Veterinarians
  - ICVI’s, change of ownership records, tag application records, program disease test and vaccination records
* Producers
  - Sale records, ICVI’s, change of ownership records, scrapie tag application records,

The Importance of Records and Official Identification

Whether you are a livestock producer, an auction market manager or employee, a livestock dealer, a veterinarian or veterinary employee, your attention to collecting and storing complete animal identification and movement information at the time of the activity becomes critically important when the information is needed during a future animal disease incident.

When animal traceability information is lacking during a disease response, the investigation must be expanded to cover a much
broader scope or area in order to try to identify and contain the disease. The longer it takes to resolve a disease incident, the greater the likelihood that interstate and international marketing restrictions will be imposed and thus affect a greater number of producers or even the State as a whole.

**Types of Official Identification Tags**

**National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) metal USDA tags**
- 9 digit metal clip tag
- Orange tags for Brucellosis Official Calfhood vaccinates only
- Silver tags for program disease testing, interstate movement, change of ownership
- Used/distributed by accredited veterinarians. Producers may apply silver NUES tags to their own cattle or bison for official identification purposes.

**840 tag or Animal Identification Number (AIN) tag**
- RFID and visual-only tags available
- 15-digit number – first three numbers are the “840” USA code
- to be placed in USA origin animals only
- orange RFID tags are available to accredited veterinarians for brucellosis vaccination
- available from livestock supply distributors
- national premises number required

900 series tag or manufacturer tag

- RFID 15-digit tag
- available from livestock supply distributors
- 900 series numbers are NOT recognized as official identification when applied to livestock on or after March 11, 2015

Scrapie tags for sheep & goats

- required for intrastate sale, show, and interstate movement of certain sheep and goats
  - please see the SDAIB Scrapie pamphlet or contact the SDAIB for specific tagging requirements
- available at no charge from the South Dakota USDA office (605-224-6186)
- custom numbered scrapie tags available for purchase from livestock supply distributors
Backtags

- applied to animals sold directly to slaughter
- applied by livestock markets

Swine premises tag

- plastic tag for cull sows and boars
- available from livestock supply distributors

Not sure if a tag is “official”? Look for the official eartag shield

**Remember:** removal of official ID is forbidden by law unless expressly authorized by regulatory authorities.

If removed or replaced and not properly documented traceability is lost. If there is a problem with a certain official tag on an animal, please contact the SDAIB.
Official Identification by Species

Official ID for Cattle and Bison

- Official eartags – used for ID on ICVI’s, test charts, change-of ownership records, and brucellosis vaccination

- Breed registration tattoos to be accompanied with registration certificate numbers – used for ICVI’s, test charts (except TB), and change-of-ownership records

- Backtags – used on animals going directly to slaughter

- Brands – used for ownership and grazing permits

Official ID for Sheep/Goats (please see SDAIB’s Scrapie pamphlet for more information)

- Scrapie tags – used for ICVI’s, test charts, and intrastate sales
- Scrapie tag application records are kept by the salebarn, veterinarian, or producer who applies the tags
- Other official eartags (RFID) and breed registration tattoos used for ICVI’s and test charts
Official ID for Swine

- Official eartags (metal, RFID) – used for ICVI’s, test charts
- Slap tattoos – used on feeder swine
- Backtags, USDA premises tags – animals moving in slaughter channels
- Registration tattoo – ICVI’s, test charts

Official ID for Horses

- Detailed description on ICVI and/or Coggin’s test chart
- Digital photos
- Microchips
- Brands - for ownership purposes

Official ID for Poultry

- Producer participation in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) allows poultry to move interstate through the production cycle as a group on VS Form 9-3 forms.
- Leg bands, group/lot ID – used on ICVI’s
Official ID for Captive Cervids

- Official USDA tags (metal, RFID) – used on ICVI’s, test charts, herd inventory records
- Registration tattoo - used on ICVI’s, test charts, herd inventory records

Please visit the website below for more information on official identification tags for livestock:

USDA’s Final Rule: Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate effective March 11, 2013

* Covers all livestock species including: cattle and bison, sheep and goats, swine, poultry, horses and other equines, and captive cervids,

* Establishes national standards for official ID and ICVI’s for interstate movement of livestock,

* Requires livestock that move interstate, unless otherwise exempt, to be officially identified and be accompanied by an ICVI,

* Allows states to use alternative ID (brands, tattoos) through mutual agreement,

* Did not significantly change current requirements for livestock moving into South Dakota.
What Producers Need to Know:

The federal traceability rule applies only to animals that move interstate.

- The rule exempts livestock that are moved across state lines for slaughter at a licensed custom slaughter facility.

- The rule requires that unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate must be officially identified and be accompanied by an ICVI.

- Individual states may have additional import requirements for livestock along with the minimum standards set in the federal final rule.

State of South Dakota requirements for intrastate movement and/or change of ownership must also be met for breeding cattle and bison, sheep and goats, captive cervids, and poultry.

For specific information on moving certain classes and species of livestock interstate or intrastate, please contact your local accredited veterinarian.

Please visit the website below for more information on the USDA Animal Disease Traceability framework and final rule: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the SD Animal Industry Board at:

411 South Fort St
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3321
Fax: 605-773-5459
Website: www.aib.sd.gov/ Email: aibmail@state.sd.us

July 2016