

ADVANCING ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY ROAD MAP FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A Three-Year Plan

Submitted by:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) fully supports the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Veterinary Services (VS) in its efforts to enhance animal disease traceability as it pertains to animal health management. We understand and believe traceability is vital to food security and continuity of business in the face of an outbreak and our ability to contain and mitigate animal diseases. We also support the continued development of national standards for premises and animal identification while allowing for regional differences. We are committed to working in partnership with VS Area office personnel to implement this roadmap with the understanding that a major focus will be the cattle sector. More specifically, we will work collaboratively to identify areas of greatest need in traceability and develop appropriate measures to address these needs within that sector of the livestock industry.

We are committed to a holistic approach to addressing traceability within the livestock industry to include all segments of the industry: accredited veterinarians, livestock producers, livestock markets, exhibitors, and other allied industries and stakeholders. CDFA recognizes the pivotal role played by accredited veterinarians and livestock market operators in enhancing and furthering traceability. Therefore, we will continue engage both sectors in mitigating challenges to enhanced traceability within the context of their business models. Additionally, CDFA and USDA staff will continue to partner to provide traceability education to accredited veterinarians during the accreditation process and to veterinary students at both California veterinary schools. We will emphasize the use of electronic data collection tools and the use of electronic devices for official identification (ID) in furthering implementation of traceability regulations.

As outlined in this roadmap, we will work with veterinary practices in California to continue electronic collection of regulatory testing, vaccination information, and the use of electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (eCVIs). Additionally, following 2024 changes to 9 CFR Part 86; we are actively engaged in working with several practitioners to utilize orange electronic ID's (EID's) where applicable or record existing EID's as official ID for brucellosis vaccination as outlined in 9 CFR Part 86.

This plan addresses ongoing concerns with respect to the ability to trace animals potentially exposed to diseases of agricultural concern and industry impact. There have been significant improvements and advancement of traceability over the last period but there is continued need to address adoption of electronic records for enhancing efficiency of trace capacity. Electronic CVIs, vaccination records and other data points all improve traceability and reduce the possibility for human error. As outlined in the recently released changes to 9 CFR Part 86, increasing the number of animals that have official identification, makes them easier to find and their movements more likely to be recorded throughout their life. To maintain continuity of business, CDFA needs to identify at risk animals as quickly as possible and reliable, traceable identification and rapidly searchable records further that initiative. One of the primary objectives of the Animal Health Branch of CDFA is to protect the livestock industry, which requires not only controlling diseases of agricultural concern but also preserving normal business flow as much as possible. None of these are new concepts, but as we move toward a more digital platform, we enhance the work that has been done to promote universal animal ID even before the ADT program existed.

II. CURRENT TRACEABILITY SITUATION

2.1 Who are we?

“Although various State/Tribe/Territory governmental agencies are tasked with ADT efforts, identifying the specific agencies/units involved in implementing this road map is essential to planning success. This also includes identifying constituents that will be impacted by and/or require collaboration with, to advance the proposed plan.”

The Office of the California State Veterinarian was established in 1899 by legislative mandate “to protect the

health of all domestic animals of the State from all contagious and infectious diseases, so far as practical". This office was incorporated into CDFA in 1919. Since its inception, CDFA has worked in partnership with USDA, animal agriculture industries (beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, equine, swine, poultry, camelids), livestock markets, accredited veterinarians, animal scientists, and other allied industries (industry associations, tag manufacturers, etc.), to detect, control and eradicate animal diseases and other animal health related incidents. These diseases include Bovine Tuberculosis, Foot and Mouth Disease, Glanders, African Swine Fever, Cattle Fever Tick, Hog Cholera, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Pseudorabies, Brucellosis, Exotic Newcastle Disease, Vesicular Stomatitis, West Nile virus, and many others.

In addition to disease surveillance and response, CDFA staff monitor the movements of livestock entering California from other states and countries including Mexico and Canada. This is accomplished via livestock movement permitting, collection of CVI information, brand inspections, and agriculture inspections at ports of entry (Border Protection Stations). In partnership with USDA, CDFA monitors movements through livestock markets and most slaughter plants.

The Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program is managed and implemented by the ADT Unit within the Animal Health Branch, which directly reports to the California State Veterinarian. The ADT Unit is composed of four (4) staff: a supervising veterinarian, and three (3) environmental scientists. All ADT Unit staff are located at the Sacramento Headquarters office. Throughout the state, field veterinarians, environmental scientists, and livestock inspectors implement the ADT program. The Unit consults with and draws upon additional species experts for bovine, equine, poultry, swine, and small ruminant specific issues. The ADT Unit also works with other divisions and branches within CDFA including the Border Protection Stations and Brand Inspections to collect movement data.

This Unit and associated staff work closely with various external constituents to protect California's animal agriculture. In 2022, California's agricultural production totaled \$59 billion. The State leads the nation in the production of many agriculture commodities including dairy products. In 2024 the State was the recipient of almost 28,449 shipments of livestock comprised of over 29,871,992 head and nearly 1,725 shipments of poultry and hatching eggs, representing 27,949,648 head. Livestock shipments originated from 47 states in the nation and three (3) foreign countries.

Internally, traceability data is used to find potentially exposed animals when a regulated disease or disease of agricultural concern is detected. Data may also be used to identify animals moved illegally or in other legal contexts. Externally CDFA assists USDA and other state or tribal governments to do the same whenever called upon.

CDFA relies on an ad-hoc advisory group to provide guidance on the different components of the traceability programs. We recognize that certain animal movements are higher risk for causing disease events. High-risk movements include animals that move frequently, commingle with animals from multiple sources, and breeding animals that may have long lives. Therefore, implementation must account for differences in livestock practices and geographical areas. The advisory group helps to identify those differences and provide science-based recommendations. The advisory group was engaged in updating the California ADT regulations in 2017 and 2024 and will be engaged as CDFA develops a strategy for completing the transition from visual to electronic animal identification (EID).

2.2 Where are we now?

How is ADT currently defined?

Traceability is defined at CDFA as the ability to rapidly trace movements of diseased animals or at-risk animals exposed to disease to ensure a prompt response to an animal disease event. Because it has implications for most of the other programs and initiatives of the Animal Health Branch, there is significant integration and synergy of ADT into many of our other programs. While the ADT Unit has dedicated staff, they become involved in cross functional teams during outbreaks and on projects with ADT implications.

National Priority Trace Exercises (NPTs) and real traces are the measures we use for the effectiveness and efficiency of the ADT Program. We use the time the NPTs take from when they are issued to the completion of the trace to assess our speed and accuracy in performing a trace. For real traces, the measure of assessment is a true determination of how many of the animals we can find. Our NPTs typically take less than an hour from the time we receive the query to when we have all the relevant data entered in to EMRS.

How is coordination being currently achieved within the unit?

COVID- 19 has dramatically modified how organizations, and CDFA work and continues to have a long-lasting effect within the sector. The State has embraced remote work and the Unit employs a hybrid work schedule. ADT section staff use weekly check-in meetings, Microsoft Teams, and email to effectively synchronize efforts while not in the office together. Time in the office is coordinated to maximize collaboration for activities that benefit from in-person participation.

How is coordination currently being achieved statewide? How does the present unit coordinate activities with other existing agencies/units?

The Animal Health Branch (AHB) meets weekly via Teams with each district and program leads to elaborate on current projects and discuss current animal health issues. Issues related to ADT are discussed during these meetings as well as via email communications and during district visits and monthly ADT virtual meetings with district staff and USDA personnel in California. The AHB has identified a designated ADT Point of Contact (POC) within each District to act as a district-level/boots-on-ground subject matter expert to facilitate statewide implementation of program goals and objectives and address program challenges at the local level. CDFA staff are also in frequent communication with their regional USDA counterparts, working together on traces, outreach etc. Joint USDA CDFA ADT Meetings are held quarterly and are open to all CDFA Animal Health Branch and USDA VS in the area as well as CDFA Brand Inspectors.

What is the state of technology infrastructure? Capability in terms of size? Compatibility within and outside the agency/unit/dept. etc. for sharing data when needed.

CDFA uses a state specific database, Emerging Threats (ET) Database, to record vaccinations, tag sightings, outreach and education events and occurrences, and enforcement actions, as well as track other pertinent disease program data. The current ET system has the functionality and capacity to hold all the ADT related data and is used by other programs within CDFA allowing for ease of data transfer and sharing within the division. For example, in addition to the AHB data, ET collects records of border crossings from the system our Border Protection Stations use to record animals entering the state and Brand Inspectors also use an application that feeds data into ET. Full systems access to ET is currently limited to CDFA staff only. CDFA is in the process of updating ET (ET 2.0), a project that is currently expected to take five (5) years. CDFA is in the process of automating ET's capability to produce CSV files that can be imported directly into AHER so that data can be shared outside of the Department as well as improving ET functional integration with national database systems of record and more seamless handling of electronic ID and data.

Are requests for information available 24/7, or only available M-F, 40 hours per week, if authorized personnel are present?

As data extraction currently requires a CDFA staff member, routine requests for data are available M-F, 40 hours per week. However, all AHB staff recognize that they are emergency responders and so, data is available 24/7 on an emergency basis. All digital media is web based and available to be accessed remotely through secure connections.

What is the impact of state funding on capability? How does Federal funding fit into the plan?

CDFA uses a combination of state and federal funds to support our ADT Program. State funds primarily support personnel and travel costs for program implementation; whereas federal funds supplement the program overall costs covering a portion of personnel, travel, and fully covering the costs for equipment such as tags, applicators, and readers that are distributed to the livestock industry and stakeholders.

2.3 Strengths and Weaknesses

What are the strengths of the organization in terms of technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?

1. The CDFA – AHB is a large Branch, nearing 100 employees, that are geographically located across the state to maximize local interaction with the livestock industry. AHB is organized into a single headquarters office with four (4) district offices each with their own team of veterinarians, environmental scientists, and livestock inspectors with relationships to local producers, veterinarians, livestock markets and processors.

2. CDFA – AHB has a designated Animal Disease Traceability team consisting of the headquarters unit (one (1) supervising veterinarian and three (3) Environmental Scientist staff for the movement permit desk and ADT) as well as a dedicated Point of Contact in each district for a total of eight (8), that coordinates the ADT program across the state. Within each district, several staff (veterinarians, environmental scientists, and livestock inspectors) facilitate the implementation of the program.

3. CDFA and USDA staff are co-located at the four (4) district offices leading to improved synchronization of programmatic efforts. CDFA works very closely with USDA staff, sharing resources and collaborating on program initiatives.

4. CDFA has an extensive in-house database that is utilized by all Branches within the Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division, maximizing additional resources for core data entry. The ET database stores ID sightings correlated with premises and Accredited Veterinarians. ET tracks premises and location data and records inspections, outreach, enforcement and compliance events across branches. The database is also searchable, providing a resource for investigations and traces. An updated version of this database is currently being designed and is expected in 5 years.

5. California has sixteen (16) Agricultural Inspection Stations located around the California border that record traceability information in a web-based computer system. Animal Health Branch staff can access the data daily to monitor compliance with import regulations. This extra data point has been very useful in enhancing the efficiency of traces.

What are the weaknesses in terms of “lack of” technology, human resources, personnel capabilities, etc.?

1. Technology lag is our greatest weakness. While we currently collect eCVI data electronically and have seen a progressive increase in adoption and use of eCVIs by industry (70%); there is still a heavy reliance upon paper or electronically filed PDF CVIs. Additionally, while the ET database currently allows capturing EID data; redistribution and data sharing are currently challenged capabilities. The ET database also does not currently have the ability to import and handle eCVI data and as such, such data must be maintained separately.

2. Staffing shortages and recruitment challenges are another weakness that continues to be an area of concern. It is anticipated that retirements through the period covered in this road map will not only continue to emphasize the gaps in personnel but will also result in significant gaps in institutional knowledge and relationships with industry partners that may hamper advancement of objectives. In addition, challenges to recruitment and retention of staff due to salary inequities amongst different classifications within the state system will continue to hamper advancement of objectives.

2.4 Opportunities and Threats

Does this plan enable or avoid consequences of potential threats?

California is frequently plagued by wildfires and has suffered under prolonged drought for almost a decade. Both of these natural disasters often require rapid movement and relocation of animals. This ADT plan creates opportunities to facilitate engagement with livestock industry stakeholders ensuring the efficient movement of livestock while still maintaining traceability of the animals. For example, during fire season, CDFA monitors evacuation zones and works with industry and partner state agencies to promote safe animal movements while maintaining traceability integrity. Additionally, despite the reliance upon a paper-based system, our staffing structure and coordination with USDA and industry partners ensures that we are able to rapidly trace an individual animal in the event of a disease outbreak or investigation and minimize both the direct and indirect economic consequences of these potential threats.

Does this plan provide for better use of available resources than current approaches?

We consistently strive towards the most effective and efficient use of available resources. Moving toward automation of CVI processing and improving our ET database will greatly enhance staff time efficiency. Creating more efficient, interconnected databases makes data more accessible to both CDFA and USDA as well as ensuring greater data-sharing between regulatory agencies. Education through active outreach and industry engagement not only increases adoption of time saving technologies but also improves knowledge among external stakeholders. Active engagement with industry stakeholders on the goals, purpose and role of the ADT program in ensuring food safety and security as well as economic stability of the various livestock industries and the implementation requirements of the program will serve to significantly improve overall compliance.

Does this plan enhance networking opportunities?

Outreach as an opportunity to connect with other stakeholders is a cornerstone of this Roadmap. Every outreach event, be it in person, virtual or a phone call, is an opportunity to enhance our role and connectedness within the livestock industry. Engagements with industry groups such as the California Livestock Auction Market Association and California Cattlemen's Association, facilitate enhanced partnership opportunities.

If this plan is not implemented, what are the threats? If this plan is not implemented, will others be tasked with doing so?

The threats if this plan is not implemented are that California will fail to advance traceability objectives and capitalize on the technological advancements. Given the pivotal role of California agriculture to the nation's agriculture; the direct and indirect effects of an outbreak of a disease of agricultural concern could have more sustained and/or severe impacts upon the agriculture industries and economy as a whole both within the state as well as nationally. There is no alternate group to implement this plan.

2.5 Inventory of existing infrastructure and suitability assessment

This section is intended to provide a more detailed and technical assessment of existing infrastructure than the “Who we are” section. An outcome of this section is to support the requirements analysis for funding prioritization and justification.

- Human resources

The ADT Unit is composed of four (4) staff: a supervising veterinarian, an environmental scientist directly invested in ADT program initiatives, and two (2) additional environmental scientists involved in permitting and interstate movement, located at the Sacramento Headquarters office. The ADT environmental scientist is responsible for outreach as well as relevant ADT projects. Such projects range from working with the IT department toward improving database function, serving as permitting lead in outbreak situations and other relevant activities. The supervising veterinarian completes the Cooperative Agreement, Quarterly Reports and this Roadmap. Both additional Environmental Scientists staff the permit desk at Headquarters. They issue daily permits as well as manage commuter herd agreements, special entry permits, review incoming and outgoing CVIs as well as work with the IT department toward improving database function and usability. All four headquarters staff work closely together on violation letters and other issues that emerge. Throughout the state, field veterinarians, environmental scientists, and livestock inspectors facilitate the implementation of the ADT program. Each district has a designated ADT point of contact for the purpose of better cohesive efforts between districts and headquarters staff while also improving communication of National ADT priorities to the field level. The Unit consults with and regularly engages with the various species specialists at Headquarters for bovine, equine, poultry, swine, and small ruminant specific issues. The ADT Unit also works with other divisions and branches within CDFA including the Border Protection Stations and Brand Inspections to collect movement data and further ADT objectives.

- Space availability

Subsequent to COVID-19, CDFA has maintained a hybrid work schedule for employees allowing for employees to telework during pre-determined days. This has led to a downsizing of physical facilities and consolidation of the AHB within the CDFA main headquarters building. Offices, cubicles, and conference rooms are available to staff when situations require some or all to be physically present in one location. The permit desk is staffed out of the Sacramento Headquarters office by an in-person employee daily. Each district office also has office spaces, desks, and conference room spaces for any in-person requirements.

- Connectivity resources, both in office and in the field

All staff are issued laptops and cellphones with hotspot capability. All databases are accessible via the internet. Forms and files relevant to the program are available on shared, secure servers that are continually maintained for accuracy and currency of information.

- Access to USDA ADT and animal health information resources

ADT Staff attend monthly ADT Info Sharing Meetings and share pertinent information with Branch personnel during weekly staff calls. The Branch meets quarterly with California based USDA ADT staff to share information and engage in continual discussion of ADT priorities within the state. EMRS, AIMS and VSPS access is granted to all staff who require access to perform their duties.

- Organization of all existing paper record systems used to access ADT or animal health information:

Non-digital records are predominately CVIs which are stored for ten years by year, month and species in the Headquarters building in Sacramento. The most recent two years are maintained in the Animal Health Branch Offices. The preceding years are secured in storage areas within the building for ease of access.

- Computerized data management capability, including present storage size, speed, security, etc.
The State is continuously working to increase ADT/IT capabilities; although numerous obstacles have reduced progress on developing databases, the state has supplied the computers, networks, and personnel to manage data capacity. Data access speed is dependent on location and type of connection; however, all staff have access to either the headquarters office or a district office where speeds are adequate to access and transfer all necessary data. The CDFA Office of Information Technology Services is responsible for the department IT security and is continuously monitoring for external threats. Cyberawareness and prevention training are mandatory annual requirements for all CDFA staff.
- Automated data capture capability
ET can accept uploads from MIMs as well as CSV files. With the new version of ET, we will increase automated data capture capability.

III VISION AND MISSION CONTEXT FOR ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

3.1 Vision Statement

The ADT program protects California’s animal agriculture industry by “being a step ahead” in reducing the likelihood of disease introduction into the state through enforcement of entry requirements; and in reducing the impact of animal diseases through rapid tracing of animal movements and identification of exposed or at-risk animals.

3.2 Mission Statement

The Animal Health Branch is the State's organized, professional veterinary medical unit that protects livestock populations, consumers, and California's economy from catastrophic animal diseases, disasters that impact animals, and other health or incidents of agricultural concern. The Branch addresses diseases and other problems that cannot be successfully controlled on an individual animal or herd basis but require state-wide coordinated resources. Implementing programs which protect California's livestock industries and consumers, ensures the availability, affordability, and wholesomeness of the overall food supply.

IV TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Strategic goal(s)

CDFA fully supports the goals of USDA’s ADT Program:

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 identification (EID) tags for animals requiring individual identification in order 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.
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(s)

Goals for CDFA's ADT Program

1. Promote Traceable Identification and Recordkeeping Through Outreach and Education
2. Utilize Enforcement to Incentivize Compliance
3. Encourage Adoption of Electronic ID (including facilitating the transition towards EID as Official ID in cattle and bison) and Electronic Records
4. Modernize Internal Data Handling to Improve Accuracy, Accessibility and Usability of Records

FY 2025 Goals

- Increase Accredited Veterinarian and Livestock Industry Knowledge of ADT Regulations and role of ADT in food safety and security through Outreach and Education
- Improve dairy calf ID via increased enforcement
- Promote EID adoption and distribution in accordance with final federal ADT rule through Outreach and Education as well as ongoing distribution of EID devices, taggers, and readers
- Facilitate improved EID recording and reporting capacity in ET through continued collaboration with CDFA Office of Information Technology Services

FY 2026 Goals

- Enhance partnerships with Border Stations to improve data collection and shipper compliance and opportunities for industry outreach for interstate movement of livestock into CA
- Enhance capacity for data collection and integration of CVI data into a digital and readily searchable database through continued collaboration with CDFA Office of Information Technology Services
- Develop needed IT infrastructure for digital ID transition through continued collaboration with CDFA Office of Information Technology Services

FY 2027 Goals

- Enhance the use of eCVIs by CA veterinarians across all sectors of the livestock industry through Outreach and Education
- Maximize data collection and integration through continued collaboration with CDFA Office of Information Technology Services

4.3 Animal Disease Traceability Performance Measures (TPMs)

CDFA ADT has a proven track record and will continue completing USDA's National Priority Traces (NPTs) to record California's tracing capabilities. The NPTs will reflect tracing capabilities based on four Trace Performance Measures (TPMs): 1. In what state was an animal officially identified? 2. Where in the state was the animal officially identified? 3. From what state was an animal shipped? 4. From what location was an exported animal shipped?

4.4 Data requirements

- **Fully describe standards to be used for official animal identification, including arrangements with other States, Tribes, Territories, as well as official identification methods/devices used within the cooperator's jurisdiction.**

California standards for official animal ID match those recognized and described in the code of federal regulations and general standards document for all aspects of the livestock industry. CDFA currently has brand agreements with Nevada, Washington, and Oregon. These agreements do not exempt the cattle from bearing official ID but exempt them from writing the ID numbers on the CVI. These states can instead write the brand to ID the cattle on the CVI, but the CVI MUST state “all animals are officially identified”.

- **What tag distribution record keeping systems are being used?**

EID tags are currently recorded in the state database (Emerging Threats database) both when they are distributed to the veterinarian and when they are applied. Updates to the ET database also facilitate entry of tag data for approved markets and producers allowing for continuous and ongoing recording, tracking and reporting within a timely manner.

- **What data requirements exist for commuter herd agreements?**

Pasture to Pasture Permits require origin and destination location details, owner, manager and veterinarian contact information, brand description, animal numbers, Trichomonosis testing information if bulls are included on the permit and what type of official ID the animals have.

We also honor Extended Equine CVIs (eeCVIs) and Working Horse Permits (WHPs) between partner states.

- **What forms are approved for interstate movement in addition to ICVIs?**

Pasture to Pasture Permits, Owner Shipper Statements, eeCVIs, WHPs.

- **How and when will data be shared with other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA?**

Our ADT data is provided directly by request to other States, Tribes, Territories, and USDA during normal business hours and when needed during an emergency. Additionally, data are provided via reports on a quarterly, annual, and ad hoc basis as requested.

- **How will group/lot official numbers be handled within the system?**

California Code of Regulations allows for group lot numbers to only be used for groups of swine and poultry moving together or sheep and goats going to slaughter using an owner-hauler form.

4.5 Information technology plan

During the first year of the plan CDFA will continue to work towards developing ET2 database such that there is increased data sharing capabilities with regulatory partners furthering overall ADT objectives. During the development phase, CDFA will also promote the incorporation of RFID distribution and redistribution of applied tags into statewide operational plans by field offices or HQ Staff into either ET or USDA AIMS to facilitate more accurate data records and thus traceability of animals in California. CDFA will also similarly work on a concurrent system for recording, storing and processing of CVIs received.

4.6 Resource requirements

- Is specific expertise needed that is not currently available? Will consultants be needed?
Currently, no specific expertise or consultant requirements have been identified with respect to the execution of this plan.
- Is a continuity of operation plan (COOP) in place and how frequently is it tested?
While no formal COOP plan is in place, the necessary infrastructure is in place to maintain business continuity. Operational manuals and shared databases facilitate cohesive workflow across the state. All

files are kept on shared, secure servers that can be accessed by staff across the state, enabling efficient data sharing and collective action. Staff are also cross trained on several essential functions ensuring availability of capable personnel to ensure sustained business operations. The challenges of the multiple years of COVID provided ample opportunities to assess and streamline our COOP plans in order to pivot to meet the various prerequisite working conditions during the response.

- Are automated data capture resources needed?

Automated data capture resources are a required resource that would facilitate significant reduction in data processing errors and human resources requirements. While ID numbers can be batch imported into ET, a significant number of functions associated with ADT data capture is done manually by HQ and district staff. Automation of data capture at livestock auction yards would also encourage the use of EIDs as well as eCVIs by veterinarians and producers.

4.7 Organizational needs

- Does a need for organizational change exist? Is it recognized? Can additional resources be leveraged within the current administrative structure?

CDFA has recently undergone an organizational shift. There has been a notable disconnect between the HQ ADT Unit, and district offices, that have combined to present various challenges to implementation of the program across the state. CDFA has updated their structure and created new positions in the districts such that each district has one “ADT Point Person.” This Environmental Scientist or Senior Livestock Inspector participates in regular ADT Team meetings to discuss issues related to the program and its implementation and help facilitate the initiatives of the program at the local field level.

4.7.1 Executive support

Executive management is very supportive of ADT initiatives. Regular updates are provided in weekly staff meetings, quarterly Joint CDFA USDA ADT meetings, and other programmatic communication. The Division Director views the ADT program as one of the major initiatives to support our livestock industries moving forward.

4.7.2 Coordination and oversight procedures

- **What is the make-up of the applicant’s ADT advisory group? How frequently are they engaged?**

Individuals from the following entities have participated in the advisory group. They are engaged when there is new legislation or other need for input. We also rely on the Cattle Health Advisory Task Force when issues pertain to cattle specific considerations.

- Baker Rendering Commodities
- California Beef Council
- California Cattlemen's Association
- California Dairy Campaign
- California Depart. of Food & Agriculture.
- California Farm Bureau Federation California
- Grain and Feed Association
- California Horse Racing Board
- California Livestock Market Association
- California Pork Producers Association

- California Poultry Federation
- California State Fair
- California State University, Chico California State University, Fresno
- California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- California Veterinary Medical Association
- California Woolgrowers Association
- Lassen College
- Merced College
- Milk Producers Council
- National Holstein Association
- National Meat Association
- Turlock Livestock Auction Yard
- University of California, Davis
- Western United Dairymen

4.7.3 Policy

CDFA policies currently match or exceed all federal ADT Rules. CDFA will continue to regularly review our state regulations and update as needed. Additionally, we will review Department and Branch policies for implementation of the ADT regulations and update as needed.

4.7.4 Staffing

The Permit desk is currently staffed by two Environmental Scientists that issue permits, field questions, and review incoming and outgoing CVIs. There is an additional Environmental Scientist that is involved in outreach, managing EID distribution, and database management and numerous other ADT tasks in addition to also facilitating coverage on the permitting desk when needed. A full-time supervisory veterinarian writes the Cooperative Agreement and this Roadmap and provides quarterly reports to USDA staff in addition to being responsible for facilitating and conducting direct outreach with industry stakeholders. The veterinarian also gets involved in outbreak permitting and serves as a subject matter expert when needed. Staff work together to facilitate updates to policy and regulations, deal with violations and numerous other ADT tasks. Desk staff must have livestock experience, be detail oriented and provide good customer service. All Environmental Scientists are required to have a 4-year college degree.

In each district an Environmental Scientist or Senior Livestock Inspector serves as POC for the ADT program locally. Additionally, all field staff within the district (Veterinarians, Environmental Scientists, Sr. Livestock Inspectors, Livestock Inspectors) all have duties related to the implementation of the ADT program. Qualifications for these classifications include Veterinary degrees, college degrees, and/or livestock experience.

Because we already fully utilize both CDFA and USDA staff throughout the state to implement ADT, there are no additional resources available to be leveraged for additional work.

- **Are professional credentials and certification an issue?**
CDFA Veterinarians must maintain their licenses in good standing with the veterinary medical board as well as their national accreditation. While continuing education seminars and conferences may be perceived to detract from regulatory activities, they provide value added opportunities to maintain

awareness of relevant issues within the livestock industry as well as give CDFA veterinarians a chance to create or renew relationships with other veterinarians and industry stakeholders who may be subject matter experts in academia or industry. National accreditation modules also provide an opportunity for veterinarians to garner a greater understanding of various aspects of regulatory health. That being said; the pool of licensed and accredited veterinarians interested in regulatory medicine is very limited and challenges our ability to recruit and retain quality veterinarians.

- **Is ADT information a distinct function within the unit or an add-on “coordinated by committee” versus an individually coordinated, stand-alone sub-unit?**

The permit desk staff and ADT staff at HQ comprise a standalone unit nested within the Disease Surveillance and Mitigation Section and are almost wholly devoted to ADT objectives. However, a significant amount of outreach, data collection and direct enforcement is performed by district staff.

4.7.5 Budget requirements

- **How are you funded for ADT? State, Tribe, Territory versus Federal?**

In addition to funds received in the cooperative agreement, all animal health programs, including disease surveillance, emergency response, and animal disease traceability are funded by California General Fund. Brand inspection is funded by industry fees.

- **What are the funding requirements projected by year for first, second and third year for implementing this plan?**

The ADT cooperative agreement money plus the State matching funds – for each year.

- **How is cost sharing achieved?**

Shared largely according to number of positions (state vs federal) and specific projects that are being advanced.

- **How can the applicant insulate against budget cuts and shortfalls?**

Budget cuts impact results, however, such shortfalls in funding may be mitigated by advance planning and streamlining lines of effort such that cuts have the least impact on the program’s ability to achieve established ADT objectives.

- **Can other funding sources be leveraged to support this plan?**

Currently no other funding source is being leveraged. State general funds are being used to support permanent positions for personnel in the ADT program.

4.7.6 Outreach

Successful implementation of any plan to advance ADT cannot be achieved without outreach to constituents primarily affected by the plan.

4.7.6.1 Accredited veterinarians

Accredited veterinarians are instrumental to the advancement of ADT in livestock and poultry.

- What is the plan for informing accredited veterinarians of the new guidelines for official ID and the specific plan for implementation?
- What continuing education is being planned for improving data quality relative to animal health information systems being used? Submitting official forms in a timely manner?

- What is the plan for enhancing the use of eCVI's, if any?
- What role, if any, does the accredited veterinarian have in providing low-cost, official identification tags/devices to producers?

CDFA ADT will continue engagements with accredited veterinarians to enhance understanding of official ID guidelines in livestock and the implementation of required technology to facilitate ready transition to EIDs as official ID in cattle and bison as well as efficient data transfer between veterinarians and CDFA, AHB. Continuing education opportunities will include content targeted towards enhancing utilization of eCVIs and EIDs to include awareness of what eCVI platforms may be available to CA veterinarians and overall use of EIDs in livestock. These events will also serve as listening sessions that would allow CDFA to best address and mitigate various challenges to adoption and utilization of eCVIs and EIDs in the industry. Accredited veterinarians will continue to play a vital role in the implementation of the final federal ADT rule on official ID in cattle and bison as they will be an essential partner in outreach, education and distribution to industry.

4.7.6.2 Slaughter plants

Because of frequent commingling of livestock, and sometimes poultry, at livestock markets, increased biosecurity risks are incurred and, as a result, the importance of access to traceability information when needed is important.

- What continuing education efforts are being planned for addressing the concerns of the slaughter plants in the jurisdiction?
- What is the plan for accessing or requesting traceability information from slaughter plants?

District staff work hard to maintain relationships with California's slaughter facilities and work collaboratively with personnel at each of the plants to ensure traceability requirements are met and implemented in a manner that meets both ADT objectives as well as facilitates ease of commerce. Slaughter facilities routinely participate in mock traces to help them understand the role of traceability and its potential impact on continuity of business and industry as a whole. Lessons learnt during response efforts to detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle have highlighted the various aspects of traceability and documentation required as well as the need for documentation to be readily accessible and shareable with regulatory agencies. District staff will continue during this roadmap to collaborate with and routinely review traceability information and documentation at the various slaughter facilities in the state.

4.7.6.3 Industry as a whole

Implementation of any plan to advance ADT impacts a variety of constituents, likely none more so than industry itself.

- How is industry being informed of the implementation plan?
- How is the advisory committee being leveraged for this continuing education purpose?
- What other resources are available for industry outreach?

One of the key roles of the ADT unit and Supervising Veterinarian at HQ and ADT liaisons at districts is outreach to industry and stakeholders. Active engagement with industry stakeholders via industry meetings and conferences is a cornerstone of outreach with industry and ensuring information with respect to traceability and this plan are widely communicated. CDFA also shares information with industry at events such as field days, AG-leaders' meetings, and other events related to livestock in the state. Information is updated on our website and published in our quarterly newsletters that are distributed to veterinarians and industry partners. District staff are also engaged with active outreach

and education at livestock markets, especially in clarifying ADT requirements and objectives. ADT staff also actively engage with and regularly present updates to various stakeholder organizations via our Cattle Health Advisory Task Force and our advisory group.

- **What constitutes industry? What species are involved?**

Because cattle are such an important part of ADT and livestock industry of California, industry primarily involves beef and dairy producers, brokers, livestock markets and processors. That being said, livestock industry in CA encompasses all of sheep, goats, swine, horses and poultry.

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

CDFa actively promotes an inclusive environment with outreach to racial minorities and the LGBTQ+ community. We endeavor to be inviting to all participants in the livestock industry and meet the needs of under-served groups through multilingual resources and staff.

4.8. Monitoring and reporting interstate movement activity

- How will the number of animals and the number of shipments be monitored that move interstate? Animals entering California will be monitored in the Interstate Entry Permit System, on the incoming ICVIs, and through Agriculture Inspection Border Protection Stations.

- How will the data be verified or validated?

Entry permits are monitored by district personnel according to destination and the shipment paperwork is reviewed when appropriate. ICVIs are reviewed for deficiencies by headquarters personnel. Border crossing data are reviewed daily, or as time permits, and validated. Crossings that warrant further investigation are forwarded to the district Veterinarians-in-Charge for district follow-up.

The following data can be pulled from CVI counts which are updated multiple times a week. With our IT Division we are working on a program to aggregate and manage CVI data.

- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents created within the State/Tribe/Territory on a year-to-date basis for animals moving out of state;
- Number of ICVIs and other interstate movement documents received for entry of animals into the state;
- Number of animals by species and class for state-entry events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number not officially identified.
- Number of animals by species and class for out-of-state movement events associated with ICVIs and other interstate movement documents, indicating the number of animals officially identified and the number requiring official ID.
- Volume of distribution for each official numbering system/device issued by the State/Tribe/Territory and/or AVIC office, including backtags by market or slaughter facility.

V ADVANCING TRACEABILITY

5.1 Ranking of priorities for advancement

- Direct engagement with Accredited Veterinarians with respect to the use of EID technology and eCVIs as well as engagement on ADT rules and roles and responsibilities within the ADT program
- Complete updates to ET to facilitate vaccination tags records and data integration with AHER
- Update and standardize tag distribution record system across all districts
- Finalize California Scrapie Regulations such that they match federal regulations

- Digitize processing of CVIs and promote use of electronic CVIs
- Continue Outreach plan with emphasis on Tagging Sites and Livestock Marketing facilities
- Continue work on improved database ET 2.0 and integration with national and USDA systems of record
- Improve capacity for retrieval of available traceability information from partner agencies, districts and markets
- Continue targeted Outreach plan with emphasis on beef and dairy producers with respect to ADT rules, regulations and overarching program objectives

5.2 Implementation of objectives

- Continue to facilitate the use of electronic identification as official ID to accredited veterinarians and livestock producers. Promote targeted trainings for eCVIs and EID technology
- Increase the number of accredited veterinarians utilizing electronic platforms to report program disease work and submit eCVIs
- Improve ET Database such that it is a reliable repository of EID and other tag data from which data is easily searchable and retrievable
- Develop plan for data integration between ET 2.0 with AHER and other systems of record