Beeftips
K-State Kansas State University
January 2004 Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/ansi/nletter/beeftips.htm

Upcoming Events

4-State Beef Conference
January 15
Maple Hill, Kan.
785-765-3821

Central Kansas Cow/ Calf Symposium
February 6
Russell, Kan.
785-483-3157

Cattlemen's Day
March 5
Manhattan, Kan.
www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_cattleday/

Q & A: United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP)

Dale Blasi, stockers, forage and nutrition specialist

The following information is from the draft document of the USAIP plan, (version 4.0; Sept. 29, 2003) *www.usaip.info*.

Q. *What is the USAIP plan?*

A. The USAIP plan defines the standards and framework for implementing a phased-in national identification system for domestic cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, cervids (deer and elk), equine, poultry, game birds, aquaculture, camelids (llamas, alpacas, etc.) and ratites (ostriches, emus, etc). The USAIP plan will apply to all animals within the represented industries regardless of their intended use as seedstock, commercial animals, pets or other personal uses.

Q. *Who developed the USAIP plan?*

A. The USAIP plan was developed by the National Animal Identification Development Team which was formed in the spring of 2003. Established by USDA, APHIS-Veterinary Services at the request of the United States Animal Health Association, the team is composed of a Steering Committee and five subcommittees, including: Communications, Governance, Information Technology, Standards and Transition. Over 100 animal industry and state-federal government professionals representing more than 70 allied associations/organizations are part of the team.

Q. *What is the primary objective of the USAIP plan?*

A. The objective is to provide the United States with a traceback system to identify animals and premises potentially exposed to an animal with a foreign animal disease (**FAD**) within 48 hours of discovery.

Q. *Why is there a need for individual animal identification?*

A. The focus of the USAIP plan is to provide the United States with the infrastructure to maintain the health and economic viability of U.S. animal agriculture. The benefits of a national animal identification system include:

1. Enhanced disease control and eradication capabilities for rapid containment of FAD outbreaks and enhanced ability to respond to biosecurity threats.
2. Enables the industry to meet the demands of domestic and international consumers for source-verified products.
3. Reduction of threats to the biosecurity of the food supply, either intentional or unintentional.

Q. *Is the USAIP plan a mandated government program?*

A. Yes, but at present there are no mandatory requirements. Once the system has been developed and tested and details have been worked out, all livestock and food animals will be required to be tracked through the system.

Q. *Who is going to pay for this program?*

A. Not known with certainty at the present time. However, the total costs for the program will likely be shared between state, federal and private entities. It is possible that most of the costs will be offset by the benefits associated with data accuracy, data

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collection efficiencies, labor reduction (public and private), employee safety, speed of tracking animals and improved animal welfare handling practices due to decreased handling time. However, the extent of any potential savings is not known at this time.

Q. *Aside from the regulatory aspects of the USAIP plan, are there any benefits to individual animal identification?*

A. It is likely that additional systems will be developed so that producers may market or exchange other information with the ID system. For example producers may receive a premium for calves whose origin, genetics and/or management practices can be precisely documented. Many believe that the implementation of the USAIP plan will provide the tracking system needed for country-of-origin labeling.

Q. *What is the time frame for implementing this plan in the U.S. beef industry?*

A. The USAIP Cattle Phase-In Plan provides for a rapid progression to track movement of cattle from a premise as they enter the market. This primary objective is illustrated as follows:

Phase 1: Premises ID
- Identify locations that manage and/or hold cattle. Target July 2004.

Phase 2: Individual ID
- ID cattle in interstate commerce. Target July 2005.
- ID cattle in interstate and intrastate commerce. Target July 2006.

Phase 3: Enhanced tracking
- RFID technology in slaughter plants. Target July 2005.
- RFID technology on markets. Target July 2005.

Q. *Is there an opportunity for me to comment on this plan?*

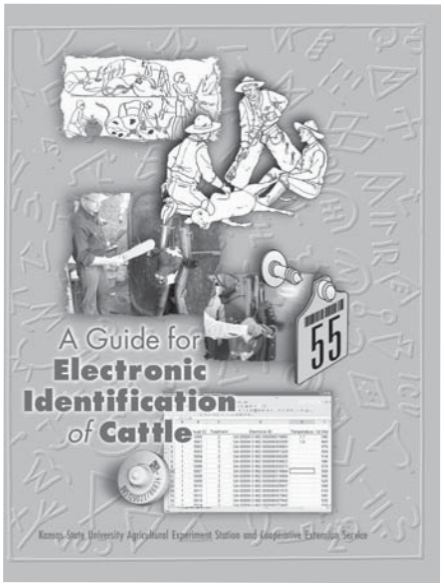
A. Yes, there is a comment period through January 31, 2004. There are a variety of ways to provide comments: e-mail to *communication@usaip.info,* fax 719-538-8847, or send U.S. mail to USAIP Comments, 660 Southpoint Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

New publication offers primer on electronic animal ID

Need more information on electronic ID? Check out *A Guide for Electronic Identification of Cattle*, a 16-page publication that discusses implementing a radio-frequency identification (RFID) system for your beef operation.This bulletin outlines key components of an electronic ID system, helping producers evaluate the components that best fit their operation. A free spreadsheet to calculate the cost of electronic ID for your cowherd, stocker or feedlot operation is available at: *www.beefstockerusa.org/rfid/*. This publication addresses:

- The importance of individual ID
- Why visual ID isn't sufficient
- The advantages of RFID and how the technology works
- Components of an RFID system
- Economics of an electronic ID system
- Comprehensive glossary of electronic ID terms

This publication is available from your local K-State Research and Extension office. It may be ordered online at *www.beefstockerusa.org/rfid/* or from Lois Schreiner at *lschrein@oznet.ksu.edu,* phone 785-532-1267.



Could these practices be putting your herd at risk?

Larry C. Hollis, D.V.M., M.Ag.
Extension Beef Veterinarian

If you took the quiz on the relative importance of biosecurity to your operation in the last issue of *Beef Tips* you may want to look at ways to develop or improve your biosecurity plan. There are many avenues an unwanted disease may enter a cow-calf operation, and the willingness to close some of these will improve the biosecurity of your herd. Disease typically enters herds in one of four major ways: with cattle, from neighboring cattle, on people, or on vehicles. Here are some questions to determine if there are factors that place your herd at higher risk of having disease enter from outside your operation.

Cattle

Do you purchase replacement heifers, cows or bulls?

Do you purchase "used" bulls rather than virgin bulls?

Do you purchase cattle from sources with unknown vaccination history?

Do you purchase cattle from herds that do not vaccinate or test for common cow-calf diseases?

Do you ever buy a calf at the auction to put on a cow that lost her calf?

Do you purchase stocker calves?

Do you rent out pasture to stocker operators?

Do you take show animals out and bring them back into the herd?

Do you put new cattle directly into your existing herd rather than keeping them separated from your existing herd for a significant period of time?

Neighboring Cattle

Are there "high risk" potential cattle in neighboring pastures?

Do any of your neighbors graze purchased stocker cattle in pastures adjacent to yours?

Do your neighbors frequently move cattle into and out of their herds?

Is a five-strand barbed wire fence the only thing between you and your neighbors' operations?

Are your neighbors' vaccination programs significantly less than yours?

Do creeks, streams, or run-off flow from your neighbor's place onto your place?

People

Do visitors have ready access to your cattle and handling facilities?

Do you allow people with manure or blood on their clothing/boots to enter your operation?

Do service providers have direct access to your cattle and handling facilities?

Do employees have cattle that they care for at home daily before coming to work?

Vehicles

Do you allow cattle truckers to use a dirty truck or trailer to haul cattle to your operation?

Do feed delivery vehicles, service vehicles, cattle trucks or visitor's vehicles cross areas where your cattle also graze or travel?

Do you allow rendering trucks to pull into your pastures to pick up dead stock?

Do you haul cattle to a sick pen or to the vet's place for a necropsy and then use the same truck or trailer to haul "clean" cattle afterwards?

Do your cattle graze directly against a heavily-traveled road?

Did you answer yes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are at risk of having new disease enter your herd from outside. Closing the door on as many of these opportunities as possible will help prevent new disease from entering your herd.

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

Focus on Feedlots

The most recent report from Focus on Feedlots can be found at: *www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_ansi/nletter/fof.htm* To receive e-mail notification of the monthly report contact Linda Siebold, *lsiebold@oznet.ksu.edu* or 785-532-1281.

Research Highlights

The Effect of Scours on Weaning Weight. Anderson, D.C., D.D Kress, T.M.M. Bernardini, K.C. Davis, D.L. Boss and D.E. Doornbos, 2003. Professional Animal Scientist 19:399.

The effect of scours on weaning weight was recently examined at the Northern Agricultural Research Center (Havre, Mont.) using data from 3,637 calves born between 1979 and 1994. Scoured calves were defined as those treated for scours at least once during the first four months of life. Treatment was with antibiotics, electrolytes, or both.

The annual incidence of scours ranged from 13 to 64 percent during the 14-year period. The average annual scour incidence and death loss was 35 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Calves treated for scours were 19 pounds lighter than non-treated calves at weaning. The authors reported that as weaning weight increased, the incidence of scours also increased, possibly due to a negative effect of selection for weaning weight on immunity.

The incidence of scours for calves from first-calf heifers was 40 percent, while the incidence for 3-year-old, 4-year-old, or 5-and-older cows ranged from 32 to 33 percent. Suggested reasons for the slightly higher incidence were: 1) A low IgG transfer to calves because of low heifer colostrum concentration. 2) First-calf heifers were confined to a small lot at night, as well as being calved and held in a shed for 12 to 24 hours post-calving when necessary. Admittedly, this might have imposed environmental or sanitary stressors on the newborn calves. First-calf heifers were vaccinated twice with an E. coli vaccine before calving.

As the calving season approaches, this study serves as a reminder that scour-related losses due to treatment costs, reduced weight gain, and death can be high. And that proper management techniques should be employed to reduce the scour problem.

Summary by Ron Hale

COOL Update

On October 30, 2003, the USDA published the proposed rules for mandatory country of origin labeling. Both opponents and proponents of COOL have criticized the proposed rules as being too burdensome and expensive for producers, packers and retailers. The comment period on the proposed rules has been extended to February 27, 2004.

The law requiring implementation of COOL no later than September 30, 2004, has not been changed or repealed. However, in November, House and Senate conferees approved an omnibus spending package for the current fiscal year which includes a provision to delay mandatory COOL implementation for two years. The spending bill has passed in the House, and the Senate is expected to vote sometime in January. The most current information can be found at *www.oznet.ksu.edu/ansi/cool*.

The U.S. Animal Identification Plan (see page 1) will provide a framework and system for source verification of all livestock. The identification plan has the potential to eliminate many of the problems associated with how to verify origin within the current COOL legislation.

Range Beef Cow Symposium

If you missed the Range Beef Cow Symposium held in Scottsbluff, Neb., in December, you can access video of each presentation, slides and written proceedings all online at: *www.rangebeefcow.com.* This was an excellent meeting, and they have provided some great resources.