



Animal Disease Traceability:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is animal disease traceability?

A. Animal disease traceability (ADT), provides the ability to know where diseased and at-risk animals are located, where they've been, and when they were there. ADT is very important to ensuring a rapid response when animal disease events take place.

Q. Why is ADT important?

A. Good traceability helps reduce the number of animals involved in a disease investigation and reduces the time needed to respond. Reducing the number of premises impacted by an animal disease event reduces economic strain on owners and their communities. Good traceability is necessary to assure our international trading partners that food they purchase from us is safe.

Q. What animals are included in this rule?

A. The rule covers animals in interstate movement (moving across state lines). Cattle, bison, sheep and goats, swine, captive cervids, horses, and poultry are the species affected by the rule. There are some exceptions to the rule, which are addressed below.

Q. What species is most affected by the new rule?

A. Cattle and bison are most affected. Other species are mostly compliant due to commercial production strategies and/or existing disease programs.

Q. What does the rule require for cattle and bison?

A. Basically, all sexually intact beef cattle and bison over 18 months of age are required to be identified with an official identification device and listed on an interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate), or CVI, if traveling across state or tribal lines. In addition, **all** dairy cattle, exhibition cattle, and rodeo/event cattle fall under the rule.

Q. What is official identification?

A. It differs depending on the species in question. For cattle in Oklahoma the most common acceptable IDs are silver USDA tags such as those used in brucellosis and tuberculosis programs, 15 digit tags that begin with 840 (some have microchips that can be read electronically and some are visual only), orange brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags, and registration tattoos if accompanied by the registration certificate.

Q. Are there exceptions to the rule?

A. Yes. Cattle moving from an individual farm or ranch in one state to an approved tagging site in another state do not have to be officially identified and do not have to be listed on a CVI. Cattle moving from a private farm or ranch directly to slaughter do not have to be officially identified and do not have to be listed on a CVI. Both of these groups of animals must be accompanied by an owner/shipper statement.

Continued on Reverse

Q. Are there other exceptions?

A. Yes. Cattle moving from an approved Livestock Auction Market directly to a slaughter establishment do not have to be listed on a CVI. Animals moving through one state back to the original state, or animals that are part of a commuter herd agreement are exempted.

Q. What is an Approved Tagging Site?

A. A location that has signed an agreement with State and Federal Animal Health Officials to apply official identification to livestock, to record that information, and to report that information to the proper officials. Most Livestock Auction Markets will be Approved Tagging Sites.

Q. What do I have to do if I am taking a group of stocker calves to a livestock market, feedlot, or to a new owner in another state?

A. You should have a CVI to take them to a feedlot or a new owner. They may be taken to a livestock market without a CVI, but should have an Owner/Shipper Statement. If the calves are dairy or event cattle they must have official ID and be listed on a CVI.

Q. I have a group of cull cows and bulls to sell and I use a livestock market in another state. Can I still take my cattle there?

A. Most states will allow adult breeding cattle to move to a livestock market without being officially identified or having a CVI. Most markets will be approved as tagging sites, so they will identify the animals and provide traceability if the need arises. It is possible that not all markets will be approved tagging sites, so you should contact the market you use to verify that they are approved.

Q. I raise breeding cattle and sell cows and bulls to producers in other states. How does the ADT rule affect me?

A. You will see no change if you've been following the current regulations. All states have required adult breeding cattle to be officially identified and to have that ID listed on a CVI for several years. The new ADT rule does not change those requirements.

Q. I have a friend who has cattle in another state and sells his cattle at an Oklahoma livestock auction market. Does he have to ID his cattle and have a CVI to bring them to the market?

A. No. All Oklahoma livestock auction markets are approved tagging sites, and as such may accept cattle from other states without official IDs or CVIs and identify them at the market. The drive in statement will be acceptable as the owner/shipper statement for livestock imported from another state to an Oklahoma market.

Q. I own a livestock auction market. What changes do I have to make to comply with the new rule?

A. In Oklahoma we're fortunate that we continued applying and recording ID on adult cattle after we stopped testing cows for Brucellosis in 2009. Because of that we will see very little change in our markets. Veterinarians will have to be a little more thorough in filling out CVIs, and markets must keep records for at least 5 years instead of at least 2.

Q. Does this mean that all states now have the same rules? That will sure make shipping cattle easier.

A. No! The new ADT rule sets minimum standards that states must adhere to. Individual states may increase standards for importation of livestock into their state. Your veterinarian should always call the state of destination to ensure that your shipment meets the requirements of the state of destination.

Q. I have questions that are not answered here. How can I get answers to them?

A. Your local veterinarian will be able to answer most questions. More detailed information is available on the ODAFF web site at <http://www.oda.state.ok.us/ais/traceability.htm> or the USDA web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>. You may also call the Animal Industry Division of ODAFF at 405-522-6141.