

Animal Disease Traceability

FOR CATTLE



Traceability for Livestock Moved Interstate

This rule, effective March 11, 2013 establishes minimum national official identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of livestock. Animals moved interstate, unless otherwise exempt, must be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI).

Always check with the receiving state for their import requirements when exporting livestock out of Kansas.

Official ID Requirements

Official identification is required for the following cattle:

- All sexually intact beef cattle 18 months of age or over
- All dairy cattle of any age
- All cattle used for rodeo, recreation, show or exhibition

Acceptable forms of identification:

- Official eartags: metal or 840-compliant (RFID or visual)
- Official USDA backtags for cattle moving direct to slaughter
- Registered breed tattoos when accompanied by certificate

Exempted from official identification requirements when:

- Moved under a commuter herd agreement
- Moved interstate directly to an approved tagging site and officially identified before commingling with cattle from other premises. Backtags may be used while unloading to ensure the identity of the animal is maintained until permanently tagged and correlated with the owner or shipper of the livestock.
- Moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment or directly to no more than one approved livestock facility and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, where they are harvested within 3 days of arrival; and
- Moved interstate with a USDA-approved backtag; or a USDA-approved backtag is applied to the cattle at the recognized slaughtering establishment or approved livestock facility.

Feeder/Stocker age cattle:

The official identification of beef cattle under 18 months of age (feeder/stocker cattle) will be established through a separate rule making at a later date.

Documentation Requirements

Cattle moved interstate must be accompanied by an ICVI unless:

- Moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, or directly to an approved livestock facility and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, and are accompanied by an ownership statement
- Moved directly to an approved livestock facility with an ownership statement and do not move interstate from the facility unless accompanied by an ICVI
- Moved as a commuter herd
- Moved from farm of origin for vet exam or treatment and back

The official ID number must be recorded on the ICVI unless:

- Moved from an approved livestock facility directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
- The cattle are sexually intact under 18 months of age, or steers or spayed heifers. This exception does not apply to female sexually intact dairy cattle of any age or to cattle used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational purposes.

Animal Disease Traceability Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is animal disease traceability?

A. Knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, and when, is important to ensuring a rapid response when animal disease events take place. Animal disease traceability (ADT) does not prevent disease. However, an efficient and accurate traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in a disease investigation and reduces the time needed to respond, which reduces the economic strain on owners and affected communities.

Q. Why is the USDA issuing this rule on animal disease traceability?

A. This rule will improve our ability to trace livestock and poultry when there is a disease event. While existing animal disease programs provide us with some traceability information, tracing capabilities vary widely by species. This ADT regulation focuses on those species, such as the cattle sector, where improved capabilities are most needed. The cattle sector's inconsistent use of official identification and significant interstate movement warrant regulations that enhance the current traceability infrastructure. Certain other species - sheep for example - already have adequate traceability through existing disease program requirements, such as the current scrapie eradication program. For those species, no additional traceability requirements will be needed.

Q. How does this rule benefit producers?

A. The ADT final rule will benefit producers in several ways. Low levels of official identification in the cattle sector require more cattle (often thousands of animals) be tested during animal disease investigations than necessary, drastically increasing an investigation's duration. For example, bovine tuberculosis disease investigations frequently now exceed 150 days, causing USDA and State investigative teams to spend substantial amounts of time and money conducting tracebacks. With ADT, accurate traceability information will be more readily available, enabling officials to shorten investigation timelines, more quickly control the spread of certain diseases, and reduce the number of quarantined or disposed of animals. All of these improvements will help make animal disease outbreaks less costly for producers and help interstate animal movements continue.

Q. How will animal disease traceability information be maintained?

A. Animal disease traceability information will be maintained at the discretion of the State and Tribal Nations.

Q. Who will hold the information needed to conduct traces? How will USDA gain access to this information when a disease event occurs?

A. Information is maintained at the discretion of the States and Tribal Nations, though USDA will continue to assist States and Tribal Nations as requested. The information systems used to support animal disease traceability follow secure data standards to ensure compatibility of databases, so information can be provided to USDA and other States/Tribes when needed for animal disease programs.

Q. Are all interstate movements of cattle and bison included in the regulation?

A. No. All animals moved directly to a custom slaughter facility are exempt from the regulation. Also, these regulations do not apply to the movement of livestock into and from Tribal lands when the movement is across a State line.

Q. Will Kansas accept brands as identification?

A. No, Kansas is not a "brands state" and will not accept brands as official identification or brand certificates as official documentation. Brands do not offer any individual identification when cattle are commingled.

Q. What types of records must I maintain for interstate livestock movement?

A. While the person responsible for the animals leaving their farm or ranch for interstate movement is required to ensure that a copy of the ICVI accompanies the shipment, there is no requirement that the producer maintain a copy of the movement documents. However, it is highly encouraged that herd records with this information be maintained to assist animal health officials in the event that any of the animals are part of a disease investigation.

Q. Where can I find more information, including the published rule and species-specific requirements for interstate movement?

A. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/

Q. How can I find out what other states require for livestock imported into their state?

A. Contact each state to find their specific animal import requirements. You may also visit the USDA-APHIS website with links to each state's import regulations and contact information at: www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_states.shtml