



Fact Sheet

Animal Disease Traceability

Revised November 10, 2010

On Feb. 5, 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new framework for animal disease traceability in the United States. The new framework replaces the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) that was strongly opposed by numerous livestock industries and associations, including TSCRA.

The goal of this new framework should be to enable the cattle industry, state, and federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies.

USDA's proposed animal disease traceability framework does not eliminate the need for continued brand inspection programs.

TSCRA supports an animal disease traceability program that adheres to the following criteria:

- Additional costs to the beef and dairy industry must be minimized.
- Any information relative to cattle identification information should be under the control of state and animal health officials and kept confidential.
- The system must operate at the speed of commerce.
- The priority livestock for participation in the framework is the individual identification of adult cattle.
- Producers must be protected from liability for acts of others after cattle have left their control.
- The purpose of the animal disease traceability system should be solely animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication. The only data required to be collected should be that necessary to accomplish this goal.
- Support the flexibility of using currently established and evolving official identification methods.

What is TSCRA doing?

TSCRA remains engaged with state and federal animal health officials to ensure that any animal disease traceability program is solely for the purpose of responding rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies and does not affect ranchers' ability to market cattle.

TSCRA will continue to work to ensure that any animal disease traceability plan contains the criteria listed above and will continue to notify TSCRA members of any changes to USDA's proposal.

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