



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Areas of Consensus Developed Among Industry and Regulatory Leaders in Ongoing Animal Disease Traceability Debate: Detailed in White Paper**

*Colorado Springs, CO / St. Joseph, MO* – Strong and ongoing collaboration among producers, commercial interests and regulatory agencies at both the state and federal level is the key component to successful animal disease traceability in the United States.

This was just one point of agreement included in a White Paper developed from the discussions at the Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability (Forum), which was collaboratively developed by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, and the United States Animal Health Association and held August 30-31, 2010 in Denver, Colorado.

The White Paper summarizes the main discussion points reached by the 193 individuals who attended the Forum. 43 states, four tribes, 33 state animal health agencies, 38 industry organizations, 8 universities, and 34 producers and supply companies were represented at the Forum. In addition, representatives from Canada, Mexico, and Japan were among the attendees.

Forum attendees recognized a significant need for more efficient and effective Animal Disease Traceability among all states and livestock species. The White Paper includes in depth notes from the Forum discussions on several subjects including:

- The inclusion of identifying feeder cattle after a workable system is in place for adult cattle.
- The use and relevance of "Brite" tags, back tags and brands.

- Reasonable timelines and benchmarks for states to implement a traceability system.
- How to accommodate the needs of different species.
- Uniform data collection among states.
- The use of official "840" eartags for U.S. born animals.
- Education and outreach to animal producers, handlers, marketers and processors in regard to new requirements.

According to the White Paper, the focus of the Forum was on the preliminary directions the Traceability Regulation Working Group (TRWG) are suggesting in the areas of official identification, exemptions, performance standards, compliance components, recordkeeping requirements, and proposed timelines.

The White Paper notes that efforts to develop animal identification methods and systems to provide traceability have been underway for several years; however issues such as data confidentiality, system costs, a lack of understanding of device and reader technology, and a lack of standardization has led to frustration and pushback from producers.

During February 2010, USDA announced a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States. The framework is projected to provide the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA suggests it will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

Following the announcement of the new direction, State and Tribal animal health officials, through a Traceability Regulation Working Group (TRWG), have been developing the basic tenants of the new traceability framework. It is anticipated that USDA will draft a proposed rule on animal disease traceability which is projected to be published by April, 2011 and provide for a 60-90 day public comment period.

Please visit [www.AnimalDiseaseTraceability.com](http://www.AnimalDiseaseTraceability.com) for more information about the meeting and to download the White Paper. In addition, other animal disease traceability resources are available at the website.

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*The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that unites and advances animal agriculture: the beef, dairy, equine, goat, poultry, sheep and swine industries. NIAA is dedicated to programs that work toward the eradication of diseases that pose risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. Farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, scientists, state and federal officials and business executives comprise NIAA's membership. More information is available at [www.animalagriculture.org](http://www.animalagriculture.org).*

*The U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA), this nation's animal health forum for over a century, is a science-based, dues-supported, voluntary organization whose membership includes state, federal and international animal and public health agencies, allied industry and professional organizations, as well as individual members representing academia, animal owners and animal health professionals. USAHA primarily serves as a forum for communication and coordination among animal health constituents on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. USAHA operates with 32 species- and subject-oriented committees, and hosts an annual meeting each year with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. More information is available at [www.usaha.org](http://www.usaha.org).*