Advances in Animal ID Data Transfer:

An Import Export Perspective

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
2018
Goals

Import advancements
- Veterinary Services Process Streaming system (VSPS)
- Border port projects
- Next steps

Export advancements
- Veterinary Export Health Certificate System (VEHCS)
- Export health certificate pilots
- Next steps
APHIS VS is committed to gaining efficiencies at our ports by

- Supporting increased use and capture of radio frequency identification in imported livestock,
- Increasing the electronic exchange of animal identification and export health certificates, including health certificate validation, and
- Advancing electronic records management and traceability through databases.
Import Advancements

Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS):
Animal Import Module
Advances in Animal ID Data Transfer

1. Click Animal Import

2. Click Routine Import

3. Click Create New Importation
Animal Identification

1. Select the Animal Characteristics (Bovine Feeder Cattle shown).
2. Click on **Upload**.
3. Quick Picks are created by the application based on previous entries. Selecting a Quick Pick will populate automatically fill the required fields for Animal Characteristics.
Advances in Animal ID Data Transfer

The image depicts a software interface for managing animal importations. The interface includes filters and data entry fields for specific animal records, showing details such as species, unit of measure, and age. There is a table with columns for animal identification, breed, gender, birth date, and other characteristics. The interface allows for actions like releasing all records with a specific attribute.
Import Advancements

“RFID pilots” on imported cattle at the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada border ports
Advances in Animal ID Data Transfer

Import Advancements: RFID Pilot Projects

Advantages of using RFID tags and electronic data capture include:

1. Reading is faster and more accurate than metal or plastic eartags

2. Allows saving of the ID data in VSPS animal import module to issue release papers

3. Those ID remain available electronically for VS and SAHOs to access

4. Reduces inspection time, fewer personnel required, less stress on the animals, which translates to cost savings for our customers
Southern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project:
Streamlining Mexican Rodeo Steer, Spayed Heifer and Feeder Steer Inspections

Three separate pilot projects
• one in Chihuahua,
• one in Coahuila, and
• one in Sonora
Southern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project:

• Used Low Frequency, Radio Frequency Identification (LF RFID) technology

• Exporters provided electronic files of all animal identification associated with the importation along with health certificates

• Integration with USDA software (MIM and VSPS)

• Create electronic documentation of individual IDs using VSPS
Southern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project:

Results

• Successful test of the system
• Shared findings with Binational Committee at January 28, 2018 meeting in Phoenix, AZ.
• Commitment to ready all VS southern border ports to expand the electronic transfer of ID and health certificate data to continue streamlining the inspection process.
Northern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project: Streamlining Canadian Feeder Cattle Inspections

Pilot targeted the streamlined exchange of ID data and explored efficient and effective methods for verification at the port of entry.
Northern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project:
Streamlining Canadian Feeder Cattle Inspections

- Offered an on-truck inspection option for Canadian exporters of feed cattle to the U.S.
- Exporter provided accurate electronic ID and copies of valid health certificates in advance of the import
- 10-20% of the RFID tags, “CAN” brands* and visual health assessment verified from outside the truck by the port veterinarian

*The pilot project did not include cattle with a “CAN” tattoo
Northern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project: Streamlining Canadian Feeder Cattle Inspections

From October 2017 to June 26, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Loads</th>
<th>Total Animals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweetgrass, MT</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>Dunseith, ND</td>
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<td>Oroville, WA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19580</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>978</strong></td>
<td><strong>67665</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northern Border Ports RFID Pilot Project: Streamlining Canadian Feeder Cattle Inspections

Results
Port personnel were readily able to verify ID, brands and health status
Total inspection time was reduced by more than half compared to the offloading process.

The typical on-truck inspection of one truck is taking 10-15 minutes versus 20-45 minutes it takes to offload and inspect.

The pilot process also reduced the time to process paperwork

Challenges –
• Formatting and animal ID data in spreadsheets must be correct before uploading the data into VSPS
• New spreadsheet templates were created to solve this issue
Import Advancements: Next Steps

Piloting identified the shortfalls and enhancements needed to existing VS IT systems, and offered alternatives in the import inspection procedures to make this streamlined pilot process work on a broader scale.

Our path forward requires continued commitment from VS and our stakeholders, technology advances, and training & outreach to ensure active participation.
Import Advancements: Next Steps

• As of May 2018, the process at the VS southern border ports is expanding – example - rodeo steers via Santa Teresa, NM.
• APHIS continues to work with stakeholders and SAGARPA on outreach sessions, and expansion to other VS southern border ports
• APHIS is currently working on a rollout strategy for expansion of the northern border pilot inspection process, including stakeholder and CFIA engagement, outreach & education, and assessment of possibly adding other live animal commodities to the pilots (example – bison)
Export Advancements
Export Advancements: VEHCS

What is it?
Veterinary Export Health Certification System

• Electronic system for the creation, issuance, and endorsement of live animal U.S. veterinary export health certificates (HC).

What does it do?
• Replaces paper process with web-based application.
Export Advancements: VEHCS

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for safeguarding agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds.

The APHIS Application Access page is used to log into the following systems:

**Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT)**
PCIT system tracks the inspection of agricultural products and certifies compliance with plant health standards of importing countries. This capability provides APHIS/PPQ better security, reporting functions, and monitoring capabilities for exported commodities.

**Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS)**
VEHCS system facilitates creation and endorsement of animal health certificates for export. It helps APHIS/VS to certify compliance with importing countries requirements, and to automate tracking and reporting of exported live animals.
Export Advancements: VEHCS

VECHS Workflow

1. AV issues & submits
2. VS reviews
3. VS endorses and digital signature is applied
4. Certificate completed within VEHCS
5. AV retrieves digital copy in VEHCS

VS print, sign and overnight to the customer
Export Advancements: VEHCS

Save **TIME** and **MONEY**!

• The issuing veterinarian creates the export health certificate online.

• No more mailing certificates to APHIS VS for endorsement

• No wasting time waiting for:
  • Mailing turnaround time
  • Driving to and from the VS Field/Port Office
  • Error corrections and calling the clinic
Export Advancements: VEHCS

VEHCS Defined Export Health Certificates are currently available for:

**CANADA:** Adult Poultry, Day Old Chicks, & Hatching Eggs, Cattle, Horses, Swine

**GUATEMALA:** Day Old Chicks & Hatching Eggs

**Korea:** Day Old Chicks, Bovine Embryos

**Japan:** Swine

These certificates walk the User through step-by-step, with radio buttons and check boxes.

The User only needs to input shipment-specific data.

The User can create ‘templates’ for Consignee/Consignor information.
Export Advancements: VEHCS

VEHCS Universal Export Health Certificates are currently available for:

- **Canada**: Aquatic Animals, Equine Semen
- **China**: Birds (non-poultry), Poultry (ducks, turkeys and geese)
- **Costa Rica**: Equine Semen, Sheep
- **Ecuador**: Laboratory Animals (any)
- **Honduras**: Poultry
- **Kenya**: Bovine Semen
- **Pakistan**: Cattle
- **Taiwan**: Birds (non-poultry), Poultry (land fowl), Poultry (water fowl)

This function allows the User to create export health certificates with custom information tables and add country-specific Certification Statements. This is akin to a VS Form 17-140 or APHIS Form 7001, as it is a *template* where the User completes with the necessary information.
Export Advancements: VEHCS

Import Authority at Destination Country may complete authentication via the external **VEHCS Certificate Viewer**: [www.aphis.usda.gov/HCverify](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/HCverify)
Additional Advancements

Continued work with CFIA - piloting export health certificate verification/validation on imported cattle and bison from Canada

Since 2015, breeding cattle have been exported successfully to Canada with digitally endorsed paper export health certificates under a pilot program at four Western U.S./Canada land border ports

Continued work with SAGARPA – discussions on pilot project for U.S. horse exports to Mexico.
With your help, APHIS VS is making considerable strides in improving traceability and moving toward the electronic exchange of animal ID and export health certificate data.
Thank you