On January 9th, 2013, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services released the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Final Rule. The new federal rule’s effective date is March 11th, 2013. The main component of new ADT rule requires that livestock > 18 months of age moved interstate be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) or health certificate. The use of other documentation for interstate livestock movement such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates and other ID such as brands and tattoos may be accepted as official identification and documentation when they are approved by the shipping and receiving states’ animal health officials. For cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter, back-tags will be accepted as an alternative to official ear tags.

Livestock under 18 months of age are exempted from the official identification requirement in this rule unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, or recreational events.

What does this mean for producers, veterinarians, and auction markets?

- Livestock over 18 months of age must be officially identified prior to being transported between states
- Producers will need to order official ID ear tags from tag manufacturers or distributors who are required to keep records as to which livestock location has received the official ID ear tags
- If the animal is over 18 months of age, the official ID number of the livestock must be recorded on the interstate health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI)
- If the livestock that are being moved interstate already have an official ID, that particular ID must be read and recorded on the CVI instead of placing another official ID in the animal’s ear
- The most common official ID ear tags for cattle that will be used by producers and veterinarians are:
  - 840 tags
  - Brucellosis or Bangs’ Tags
  - Silver, “Brite” or NUES Tags

What it means for the State Veterinarian’s Office:

- There are federal animal disease traceability performance standards associated with the new rule that we must meet such as being able to efficiently trace animal ID data and livestock movements between states
- Meeting these traceability performance standards will have a positive impact on our animal disease traceability capabilities and may prevent the Colorado
livestock industry from falling under more stringent inter-state movement restrictions

- We have recently implemented a new animal health information management system which will help improve our animal disease traceability and to respond to livestock disease outbreaks more effectively and efficiently
- Outreach to accredited veterinarians will take place to clarify the increased responsibilities required in their role by the new ADT rule
- We will be visiting with the auction markets in the State to discuss implications for their operations and the veterinarians who work there
- We will be working to create awareness of the changes for producers and how they can order official animal ID ear tags

The main purpose of the new ADT rule is to ensure a rapid response when livestock disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.
Here is a more detailed summary of the main requirements for the different species within the new ADT rule:

**Cattle**

1. The following will require official identification and interstate CVI’s (with official ID data listed recorded on the CVI) in order to move interstate:
   a. Dairy cattle of any age and sex that are born after the effective date of the rule (March 11th, 2013)
   b. Cattle and bison over 18 months
   c. All cattle used for rodeos, exhibitions, or recreational purposes

2. The following are considered official identification devices and methods:
   a. Any ear tags that conform to the Animal Identification Numbers (AIN) system commonly referred to as 840 tags
   b. Any tag that conforms to the National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES). These are the orange brucellosis tags and “silver brite tags”
   c. Location-based numbering system. The location-based number system combines a state issued location identification (LID) number or a USDA issued premises identification number (PIN) with a producer’s unique livestock production numbering system
   d. Group/lot identification number (GIN). The identification number used to uniquely identify a “unit of animals” of the same species that is managed together as one group throughout the pre-harvest production chain
   e. Brands registered with a recognized brand inspection authority and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate, when agreed to by the shipping and receiving states’ animal health authorities
   f. Tattoos and other identification methods acceptable to a breed association for registration purposes, accompanied by a breed registration certificate, when agreed to by the shipping and receiving states’ animal health authorities

3. Other identification or documents can be used in lieu of an interstate CVI when agreed to by the shipping and receiving states’ animal health authorities

4. USDA approved backtags can be used to move animals to a recognized slaughtering establishment, but the animal must be harvested within 3 days.

5. Cattle and bison under 18 months will be subject to additional requirements in a later separate rule. However, as noted in item 1, dairy cattle of any age and all cattle used for rodeos, exhibitions, or recreational purposes are required to have official ID and an appropriate CVI according to the new rule

6. Cattle and bison moved interstate to an approved tagging site can commingle prior to placing official ID tag as long as the identity of the animal’s consignor is accurately maintained until the animal is tagged with an official eartag

**Equine**
1. The physical description of the horse can be used as official identification. The state animal health official of the destination state may elect to have a non-animal health official verify the description (i.e. veterinarian, event manager).

2. Allow the use of non-ISO transponder if injected prior to 12 months after effective date.

3. Add biometric measurements as official identification listed under the description of equine.

4. Add exceptions for identification and documentation for equines used as a mode of transportation (examples horse and buggy) provided they return to original location without change of ownership.

5. Exemptions for movement to a veterinary clinic and then returned to original location.

6. Allow the use of other documentation such as an “equine passport” when agreed to by the shipping and receiving states’ animal health officials.

**General**

1. Group/lot ID is allowed as long as it meets the definition within the rule.

2. Exempts all animals moving directly to a custom slaughter facility.

3. 840 AIN tags can only be used on animals born in the United States.

4. Attachment of printout of official ID numbers to an interstate CVI is allowed only if the receiving state allows it.

5. The issuer of the interstate CVI or other document used for movement must send appropriate forms to the shipping state’s animal health office within 7 calendar days. In turn, the shipping state’s animal health office must send a copy of the forms to the state of destination within 7 calendar days.

6. The interstate CVI or other documents used for movement must be retained by the issuer, approved livestock facilities, and state offices for 2 years for poultry and swine and 5 years for other species.

7. Tag distribution records with name and address must be maintained for 5 years by the official tag distributor.

8. Effective date of the rule will be March 11, 2013.