



Identification and traceability in the European Union, Mexico, 9-10 Julio 2019

EU seminar on standards for agri-food products

European Commission
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Agriculture
and Rural
Development





Introduction

Objetives of this presentation:

- 1. Main principles to set up a system of Animal Identification and Traceability**
- 2. Why animal identification is useful ?**
- 3. Animal Identification and Traceability and market access**
- 4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU**
- 5. Controls and audits**
- 6. Time for questions**



1-Main principles

- A traceability system cannot be achieved without costs
- It is necessary that the Animal Identification & Traceability system are proportionate to the objective and goals to be achieved
- Depends on the objective
- Depends on the animal species



1-Main principles

- The animal species:
 - Production systems and business trends for each animal species **may be different**
 - Traceability in cattle **more complex** than in pigs
 - Mixture of cattle from different sources
 - Less expensive if there is a system of traceability based on "group of animals" (batch) than on an "individual"



2-Main principles

- *Mandatory or Voluntary?*
 - **Most exporting countries:** mandatory AI systems (some of them voluntary AI system)
 - **Most importing countries:** mandatory AI systems
 - Record movement of animals is common in countries with mandatory IA systems



2-Main principles

- AI & T have become essential requirements for international trade not only meat but other products of animal (and vegetable)
- Tendency to generalize: many countries have developed systems of AI & T
- Difficult to isolate the impact of traceability in international trade
- Its absence may limit **market access**
- Its tenure can quickly **lift trade restrictions**



2- Why Animal identification is useful ?

- Fight against animal diseases/ animal crises
- From **"Birth to slaughter"**
- But **"From the Farm to table"**



2- Why Animal identification is useful ?

- 1. Consumer protection information:** can restore confidence in beef and other bovine-derived products in the consumer through transparency and traceability
- 2. Human health:** food can be traced quickly through the food chain and can be quickly recalled
- 3. Animal health:** Location and tracking of animals for veterinary purposes (fundamental for controlling infectious diseases)



2-Why Animal identification is useful ?

- ❑ Food Crisis
- ❑ Fraud Prevention
- ❑ Ensuring the functioning of a single market (27 Member States)



2-Why Animal identification is useful ?

- The vision of the EU with regard to animal identification is not limited to crises
- Other major reason is **Regionalization:**
 - facilitates trade (**domestic & international**) despite the presence of highly contagious diseases in a region or country
 - You must know the origin of the animal and the time spent in certain areas / regions
 - The export place (place of dispatch) does not seem to be sufficient in the EU ("*one-step-back*")
 - we require further information on the "previous" movements the animal



3. Animal identification and traceability and market access

- Following this, most of EU trade partners which imposed *bans or import restrictions* for beef and other bovine derivate products during the nineties.
- Since then, **recovery of EU exports of bovine products** has been slow but many of these restrictions have finally been removed by major trade partners:
 - ***Egypt, Saudi Arabia***
 - ***Jordan***
 - ***Philippines, Thailand***
 - ***Indonesia, Malaysia***
 - ***Singapore, Japan***
 - ***South Africa, Argentina***
 - ***US and Australia, etc...***



3. Animal identification and traceability and market access

- A determining factor was the implementation of a proper **AI and traceability system** for bovine in the EU (*from the farm to the fork*).
- The EU was in a position to present to its trade partners one of the **most developed systems** for cattle identification and traceability worldwide, due in part to the experience gained in the eradication major animal diseases.
- The EU cattle identification and traceability system was crucial to **restore confidence to business partners** in terms of food safety and animal health.
- Many third countries continue have lifted restrictions to EU bovine products in accordance of the **recommendations contained in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.**



4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- ***Efficient traceability*** of kept terrestrial animals is a key element of disease control policy.
- Thus, EU Member States shall have in place a system for ***identification and registration*** for terrestrial animals in order to Facilitate the effective application of the disease prevention and control measures



4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- *EU system for identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals is based on:*
 - **The species or categories of kept animals**
 - **The animal health risk posed by that species or category**
- *Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429)*



4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- EU system for identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals includes the following elements:
 - The means to **identify** kept terrestrial animals individually or in group
 - Identification documents, movement documents and other **documents for identifying and tracing kept terrestrial animals**
 - **Up-to-date records** in establishments keeping terrestrial animals
 - **A computer database** for kept terrestrial animals



4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- **Up-to date records inn establishments keeping terrestrial animals:**
 - **The species, categories, number of animals and animal ID**
 - **Movements of kept animals into and out of their establishments, stating:**
 - **Their place of origin or destination**
 - **The date of such movement**
 - **Copy of documents accompanying animals when they move**
 - **Mortality of animals on the establishment**
 - **Biosecurity measures, surveillance, treatments, test results**
 - **The results of any animal health visits performed by veterinarians**
 - **Producers are obliged to maintain registers indicating:**
 - **feedstuffs used;**
 - **medical treatments (drugs, etc.)**
 - **results of lab test etc.**

Records are kept and maintained by operators of establishments in paper or electronic form



4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- A computer database maintained by competent authority in MS for bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine animals:
 - animal ID
 - Establishment keeping them
 - Animal movement into and from those establishments
 - Records are provided by the operators of establishments



What is needed to make an animal identification system to work properly ?

An efficient AI & traceability system must rely on **four pillars**:

- 1. Individual identification** of each animal with two ear tags (depending on the species)
- 2. A register** in each holding (e.g. farm, live animal markets, slaughterhouse) and a listing of all holdings
- 3. Individual passport** for each animal which contains information on all animal movements
- 4. A computerized database** capable of tracking the animal quickly in case of illness and including until its parents



What is needed to make an animal identification system to work properly ?

- The final test of the effectiveness of a traceability system depends very much on the **performance of the database**
- Important: this effectiveness will depend on how the database is “fed” with the necessary information
- This responsibility to “fed” the database depends heavily **on farmers**



Animal identification and beef labelling...

- *A fundamental requirement for having a labeling system which is credible is that it is based on an effective system of AI & T*
- *The EU legislation contains provisions for beef labelling*
- *Any beef goes on sale in the EU for the consumer must include on the label information on the origin:*
 - *A reference number that enables traceback to the farm of origin (birth)*
 - *Information regarding the origin of the meat:*
"Animal Born: in France; Raised: in Spain; Slaughtered: in Italy"



Specific traceability requirements

Beef (when sold to the final consumer):

Label of pre-packaged products must bear:



- Traceability bar code
- Country where animal was born
- Country where animal was fattened
- Country where animal was slaughtered

Two-letter
country code
Bar
code

Animal ID
number





4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- *The European Parliament and the Council adopted the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases (“Animal Health Law”) in March 2016.*
- *The Regulation was published in the Official Journal on 31 March 2016*
- *Overall, the single, comprehensive new animal health law will support the EU livestock sector in its quest towards competitiveness and safe and smooth EU market of animals and of their products, leading to growth and jobs in this important sector*

4. Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- *Different rules have been adopted in the EU depending on the species*:*
 - *For cattle: Regulation 1760/2000*
 - *For sheep and goats: Regulation 21/2004*
 - *For horses: Regulation 504/2008*
 - *For pets: Regulation 998/2003*
 - *They all share certain fundamental principles but may change in the accessory (type of identifier, type of registration, passport or for movement)*



** Currently in place but not valid from April 2019 due to legal provisions contained at Animal Health Law*



Animals	Means of identification	Type of animal ID
<i>Bovine</i>	<p>2 conventional ear tags*</p> <p>*MS may replace 1 tag with electronic mean- e-tag, bolus or injectable transponder</p>	Individual ID
<i>Ovine/caprine</i>	<p>Slaughter animals <12 months: 1 conventional ear tag</p> <p>Non-slaughter animals: 1 conventional ear tag 1 electronic mean- e-tag, bolus, e-pastern band or injectable transponder</p>	<p>Batch ID</p> <p>Individual ID</p>
<i>Horse</i>	1 injectable transponder and asingle lifetime document	Individual ID



5-Controls and audits

- Member states shall take all the necessary measures **to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EU legislation**
- Sanctions should be applied where non-compliance on identification and registration leads to a presumption of infringement of the EU law which may endanger human or animal health
- EU law lays down the **minimum administrative sanctions** , leaving open the possibility for MS to go far beyond taking into account the seriousness of the infringements
- Any sancitons must be proportional to the gravity of the breach



5-Controls and audits

- Experts from the Commission (FVO) shall verify that the MS is complying with the requirements of the EU legislation and shall make on-the-spot checks
- Regular FVO inspection missions are carried out in MS and in third countries.
- MS must produce an annual report on bovine and sheep and goats controls on animal identification containing information on:
 - Number of holdings
 - Number of inspections
 - Number of animals inspected
 - Breaches found
 - Sanctions imposed
 - and sent to the COM for publication



Was it worthy ?

- *EU experience: was it worth it when we look at the past ?*
- *YES ...!*
 - *At the level of **animal health***
 - *At the level of **consumer protection** and information*
 - *In terms of **market access***
 - ***Costs involved***
 - ***Administrative burden***



6. Time for questions

Thank you for your attention

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