

NATIONAL PYGMY GOAT ASSOCIATION
USDA ANIMAL TRACEABILITY PROGRAM
REPORT TO THE BOARD

May 2011

From the USDA Website

On February 5, 2010, USDA announced a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States.

The framework will provide the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA's efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved interstate;
- 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.

USDA is committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry to develop an effective, yet practical, animal disease traceability solutions.

USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH)

A 20-person committee now exists to advise USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack as the Animal Disease Traceability system makes its way through the bureaucracy. One of the committee members is Ms. Judith McGeary, Executive Director of the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA). Several meetings have been held to discuss the system, proposed rulemaking by USDA, funding, technology, etc. The next one is scheduled for July 22, 2011.

USDA Report on Animal Disease Traceability

The USDA Website contains a 68-page Comprehensive Report and Implementation Plan originally prepared on September 28, 2010, and amended January 18, 2011. The single page Executive Summary of this report is attached to this Report to the Board. As can be seen from the summary, USDA is concentrating on farm-raised livestock and poultry, with cattle being the priority. Although this summary states that a proposed rule is slated to surface in April 2011, with a final rule to follow in 12-15 months, these time frames are already in the act of being delayed. When all of this rule-making will begin to take shape is presently unknown.

Ray Hoyt
NPGA President