

2009 Cross Border Livestock Health Conference Action Item Status Report

Action Item 1:

Work with officials from the Canadian and US governments to encourage the acceptance of electronic documentation and endorsement for the import/export of live animals and products within and between the two countries.

Prepared By:

Project Team	Project Role
Jack Field, Washington Cattlemen's Association	Initial Project Lead
Ted Williams, USDA	Team Member
Keith Lehman, CFIA	Team Member
Rick McDonald, Canadian Livestock Genetics Association	Team Member
Kerry St. Cyr, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency	Team Member

Action Item Status:

Time Period	UPDATE
July 2009 – Oct 2009	<p>After the meeting in Boise, I was informed (and reported back to Jack Field) that e-certification was in fact being used for interstate trade in the southeastern USA. Jack was going to investigate but, I haven't heard any more. Meanwhile in Canada, I contacted CFIA and was told that an e-certification initiative was underway and that they would be in touch with me soon. I reported this to Jack as well. Earlier this month CFIA did in fact contact CLGA concerning e-certification. This is an "Agency initiative" – not simply a project of the Terrestrial Animal Health Division (TAHD) with whom we normally work. As I understand it, the meat sector is ahead of us but TAHD wants to start with exports of bovine semen. The work has progressed inside CFIA to the point that they are seeking industry input and we have helped them to arrange site visits at some bovine A.I. centres during the month of October. We are pleased that things have progressed but concerned at the apparent lack (to this point) of linkages to lab test info. Kerry also indicated that CCIA had not been contacted with respect to linkages with CCIA. We also do not know at this stage what (if any) discussions have occurred between CFIA and their counterparts in the USA – or any other country with respect to the use of e-certification.</p> <p>I have asked that e-certification be put on the agenda of the semi-annual meeting of the NAAB Market Access Committee. "NAAB" is the US A.I. industry association. There are a few Canadians on this committee and some of the larger companies have facilities on both sides of the border. They move inventory back and forth so, e-certification will be a very useful tool for them. In summary, we need more info from our US colleagues and we need to communicate more with CFIA on the details of their plan. (Rick McDonald).</p>
Nov 2009 – Jan 2010	<p>Dr. Leonard Eldridge and Jack Field have been in communication and reviewed the electronic health certificate issue. The US has two systems that they would like presentations on at the conference and they would like a presentation on any existing system in Canada. They will be in contact with CFIA to identify the Canadian status on Electronic Health Certification.</p>

	<p>Dr. Ted Williams informed APHIS-VS's National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) about the discussion regarding electronic health certification during that took place during the 2009 CBLHC, including Mr. McRonald's concerns about shipments of animal germ plasm, particularly bovine semen. His understanding is that CFIA and USDA have been are engaged on the subject.</p>
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	<p>Dr. Eldrige and Jack Field will be working to get the action item team together.</p>
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