

CLUSTER GROUP IV

IMPLEMENTATION

Participants

- Keith Belk – Moderator
- Daryl Tatum – Reporter
- Greg Peters
- Tobin Armstrong
- Dave True
- Jim Riva
- Mark Spire
- Peter Schmidt
- John Paterson
- Bill Mies
- Anne Anderson
- Dave Warren
- Sam Harada

SYSTEM OBJECTIVES

- Potential scope of system
 - Source Verification
 - Process Verification
 - Traceability
- Group defined five potential objectives
 - Animal Health
 - Homeland Security
 - Food Safety
 - Marketing/Trade
 - *Economic Chaos*

SYSTEM OBJECTIVES

- The group decided the primary objective should be to protect the national herd and prevent a catastrophic economic event
 - Animal Health is the backbone of the program, but marketing will drive the implementation
 - The system could be expanded to include other market differentiating components

MANDATORY VS. VOLUNTARY

- There were differing opinions on whether the system should be mandatory or voluntary
 - A voluntary system permits market differentiation, whereas a mandatory system takes private money out of the system, and puts the burden of cost on the producer and/or government
 - Until now, we have had an opportunity in the US to implement a voluntary system, but have not succeeded.
 - Poll results
 - Voluntary: 5
 - Mandatory: 11 (of which 8 were US citizens)
 - Provided system has a long lead in for implementation

DEPTH, BREADTH, PRECISION

- Depth was defined as confirmable animal traceability from the grading stand back to source of origin
- Breadth was defined as;
 - Animal ID
 - Location/premises ID
 - Movement events (locations, times, dates)
 - Transporter
 - DOB (voluntary)
 - It was suggested that a large number of data fields could be provided for additional use
- Precision
 - A mandatory system will require third party verification (APHIS)
 - Marketing programs attached to the system would be voluntary, and would also require verification via auditing by AMS or other third party

RATE OF COMPLIANCE

- Is 75 to 80% close enough?
 - Goal should be 100 percent in either a voluntary or mandatory system
 - Discussion suggested that making the system mandatory would result in a higher rate of compliance
 - There is no scientific evidence allowing prediction of an acceptable rate of non-compliance

EFFECTIVE EXISTING SYSTEMS

- Due to the following, a model system does not exist today
 - Geographic size and proximity of neighboring countries
 - Number of producers/number of cattle
 - Government philosophy
 - Objectives of system (Restoration of consumer confidence, trade, and assessment of taxes)
- We can and should utilize the information and knowledge gained by other countries' already utilizing traceability systems