SCS News

Surveillance Collaboration Services

United States Department of Agriculture
Veterinary Services

In this issue

SCS Support Options

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APHIS Technical Assistance Center (ATAC)

1-877-944-8457 opt.3
vsithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov

CoreOne University

Videos & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

https://scs.aphis.usda.gov/training.html

SCS Bi-weekly User Calls

Call-in number: 1-888-858-2144
Access code: 4530397

If you wish to participate in the calls, contact Dr. John Belfrage:

john.b.belfrage@aphis.usda.gov

SCS Training Network

(Launch date - Jan. 2013)

eAuthentication Helpdesk

1-800-457-3642
eauthhelpdesk.ftc.usda.gov

Iowa's successful transition to SCS

by Dr. David Schmitt
State Veterinarian—Iowa

Last year, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Bureau of Animal Industry had an opportunity (provided by USDA) to migrate data from our Generic Data Base (GDB) to Trace First's Core-One/SCS system. We discussed this prospect with our State's USDA Veterinary Services partners and decided it was time to transfer the GDB data to a newer system that would meet our current and future needs.

In December 2011, we worked with Trace First to transfer GDB and Standardized Premises Registration System data into SCS. Any questions we had were answered quickly by Trace First—customer support was a key to our success.

Having used the Web-based system for several months now, I believe it will enhance our animal disease traceability needs, and allow for a broader use by State office and field staff. The home page in SCS allows a user to search for a premises, person, animal, accession or vaccination as well as view assigned activities. Each page has several drop-down menus for users to choose appropriate data, making data-entry consistent. In addition, users can attach scanned copies of test charts or other documents related to a premises or herd that can be viewed by our field or office staff.

As with any technology or software, enhancements can be implemented as needed to make processes easier, broader in scope, and more user-friendly. Trace First was very helpful in arranging webinars for our staff to discuss the functionality of the system and address our questions.

All in all, Trace First has given us a user-friendly product that will meet our current and future needs.

Cognos reporting tool

by Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding
DVM—North Carolina

SCS, as a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product, is ready to meet most of VS' data-entry needs. But what about the questions everyone always has about programs, surveillance, testing, and vaccinations?

VS is incorporating a product called COGNOS to answer the questions we routinely have regarding all of the data we collect.

The Operations Reporting Tiger Team is a group of VS Area, Regional, and surveillance folks trying to predict the business questions most commonly asked of our data, and develop specifications for answering those questions with reports generated in COGNOS from data pulled out of SCS.

So far, the Tiger Team has tackled specifications for caudal fold response rates; situational restriction, program, and activity overview reports; tuberculosis and brucellosis test summary reports; and animal ID tag searches. The team is working very closely with our in-house VS COGNOS developers to uncover additional possibilities for supporting all of us in our use of SCS for managing our business of surveillance.

Once the COGNOS product is ready, and all the components are in place, we will have a fantastic tool to support the VS mission and help the States continue to support animal health surveillance in coordination with VS.

If you have any questions or ideas regarding the project, drop me a line at bporters@aphis.usda.gov.

New Training Network for SCS

by Kristin Keller
Training Specialist—VS PDS

V eterinary Services (VS) is implementing a new training network for SCS users. It is part of a broader training network called the VS Information Systems (VSIS) Training Network, developed to deliver training to end users of computer applications maintained by VS.

The mission of the VSIS Training Network is to provide real-time training support to end users through a network of experienced users known as Network Associates (NA). This network leverages the knowledge of experienced users who can be contacted directly by end users when support is needed. It complements formal training strategies by integrating real-world user experience with formal instructor-led training.

Currently, NAs provide assistance for:
- Mobile Information Management (MIM)
- Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS)

In the near future, NAs will also provide assistance for:
- Emergency Management Response System (EMRS)
  Target date—September 28, 2012
- Surveillance Collaboration Services (SCS)
  Target date—January 1, 2013

  (The NAs for the SCS Training Network have been identified and their training is planned for early fiscal year 2013.)

For more information about the VSIS Training Network and the SCS Training Network, contact:

Kristin Keller
at kristin.d.keller@aphis.usda.gov

Dr. Narda Huyke, VMO/VS PDS
at narda.huyke@aphis.usda.gov

The important role of national surveillance in the United States

by Dr. Aaron Scott
DVM PhD, Diplomate ACVPM (epi)

W hen asked to write a short editorial about national surveillance and animal health data, the economic perspective and value of our work to our nation came to mind.

A well-designed national surveillance system provides critical information for international trade and plays a fundamental role in the national economy.

Let's think for a moment about the role of surveillance in one single current event — one case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a 10-year-old cow out of a cattle population of 40 million.

Nine years ago, another BSE case virtually eliminated U.S. beef exports. This resulted in a loss of about $3 billion. Some experts in other countries still question the disease status in the United States, but gain little traction when their expert opinion faces the reality of U.S. surveillance data.

Today, the beef export market is closer to $5 billion, and the recent case caused little more than a ripple in the marketplace.

But let's think a bit more broadly. BSE is only one disease. Add in other livestock and associated diseases, such as those implicated by the rapidly growing volume of swine exports. Now add in the multiplier effect of those dollars in the economy.

> **"We are looking at an impact of about $20 billion and 60,000 jobs that depend on these exports alone."**

We are no longer looking at surveillance data just in terms of managing disease in localized herds. Surveillance is the scientific evidence that supports international market access, American agriculture infrastructure, and our homeland security.

BR vaccination data-entry: Easy as 1-2-3

By Dr. Troy Bigelow
DVM—Iowa

Entering brucellosis calfhood vaccination records into SCS is really a simple three-step process.

Step 1: Verify premises and owner information is already in SCS.

Step 2: Open the appropriate herd record, and select "vaccination recording."

Step 3: Enter vaccinated animal IDs from the vaccination record (VS Form 4-24 or 4-26) and submit for processing.

The benefits of having vaccination data in SCS include the ability to:

- Track vaccinated animals in a herd.
- Track the number of animals vaccinated annually.
- Track tags from vaccinated animals.
- Create inventories of officially identified animals.
- Attach documents such as a scanned image of a VS 4-24 or VS 4-26. (*You will never need to search through a dusty filing cabinet again!*)

For detailed step-by-step procedures on entering and retrieving vaccination records, access the *Brucellosis Vaccination Data Entry* standard operating procedure located in CoreOne University.

MIM "export activity" data finds a home in SCS

By Dr. Randy Munger
DVM—Colorado

For almost 2 years, VS field personnel in several States have used Mobile Information Management (MIM) to assist with cattle inspections before the animals exit the country. Most of these inspections occur at or near the port of departure and give VS personnel one final chance to verify that the cattle exiting the country show no signs of disease or injury, and are listed on the approved export certificate.

Dr. Byron Schick, AVIC-Oklahoma, improved this MIM process with the idea of preloading all approved animal records into MIM before an inspection, then using MIMPDA during the final inspection to verify the cattle were actually approved for export. Additionally, the MIM functionality captures data on the animals that were approved for export but remained in the United States because they were rejected during the final inspection or failed to arrive at the port.

The use of MIM during export inspections has made a significant impact by reducing the time it takes to conduct the final inspection. However, this also created a byproduct that had no real home—*all of the data collected on thousands of cattle*.

Some States tried to move the export data collected by MIM into GDB, but overall the process was unsuccessful. Most of the export data that was collected remained on local computers of the field users involved with the exports.

With the integration of MIM and SCS in April 2012, users can upload export data from the desktop MIM Manager into SCS. This advancement in data management allows export data, down to the individual animal level, to be readily available for traceability, management needs, and investigations if necessary. As a somewhat symbolic demonstration of the importance placed on the new ability to upload MIM export files into SCS, the first 30-plus files successfully uploaded from MIM to SCS were export activity files from Maine.

As of June 1, 2012, over 33,000 exported animal records have been uploaded into SCS from MIM. Also, more than 1,000 records of animals that were approved for export but remained in the United States are now stored in SCS.

Currently, some States are uploading earlier MIM export files that were stored locally into SCS. In addition, other major cattle exporting States will be migrating to SCS this year.

It seems highly probable that by the end of 2012 there could be over 100,000 exported animal records uploaded into SCS from MIM.

Release Dates

Software Version	Release Date
5.2	Dec 2011
5.3	Feb 23, 2012
5.4	Not released
5.5	Mar 30, 2012
5.6.1	Apr 11, 2012
5.7a	May 16, 2012
5.8.2	July 9, 2012

Updates to CoreOne software

By Kathy Finnerty
Country Manager—USA, Trace First Ltd.

Over the past several months Trace First has released a number of updates to the Core One software, some minor and others more substantial. Many of these are a result of feedback provided by users.

Notable updates include:

- New Data Manager and Data Extractor user roles:
  - ◊ Data Manager role can edit a premises number.
  - ◊ Data Manager role can reassign a herd in accession and vaccination screens.
  - ◊ Data Extractor role has access to the accession, vaccination, and activity extractors.
- Additional information displayed in premises and herd screens showing:
  - ◊ Associated premises.
  - ◊ Associated persons.
  - ◊ Activities.
  - ◊ Program statuses.
- MIM integration for accession, inventories, and animal removal (collaborative effort with VS).
- Tag allocation and distribution function at premises.

  All updates to the CoreOne program are captured in User Release Notes supplied to USDA on the release of each software version.

In the upcoming months, a number of features are due for development and release. These include:

- MIM integration with vaccinations (collaborative effort with VS).
- State location identification number (LID) automatic premises numbering.
- An update to entry screens for vaccination and bulk animals.
- A report for new and amended premises.
- An extractor for person records.
- The ability to link activities under a common case number.

SCS Bulletin Board

SCS User Comment:

"I was not real happy to hear that we had to start using different software (SCS), but I have learned that the more programs you get involved in the better the knowledge.

...In the last 5 months we have come a long way with all the (SCS) improvements and are very happy with the changes and how this program is now working.

I want to thank all of you who have helped to make this program the way it is today. I appreciate all the support and time you have put into making it easier.

We are really pleased with this program. Thank you."

—**Sandy Copenhaver**
Montana Program Records Manager