

European traceability systems

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Abstract

There are around 88 million bovine animals in total in all 28 Member States belonging to European Union. International and national trades, animal diseases are just some of the reasons we need to have a good animal identification and traceability program. The current animal identification and traceability system is a base to build up other systems or to improve national livestock management and breeding systems. However, there is a common EU directive and all 28 EU Member States have similar requirements for the system, but every member state has its own rules in a national identification schemes. Key elements of these identification schemes are identification and registration of individual animals and holdings, registration of movements and quality and use of databases by authorities etc. Depending on local needs different identification tools are used. Due to the improvements in technology electronic identification (RFID) is more and more used. Even if we talk about animal identification in Europe there are some international organizations working on animal identification field like ICAR, ISO, OIE etc.

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