

Animal Identification and registration

Lessons learnt and experiences from the pilot implementation

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Background

The main objectives have been almost achieved from January 2020 to September 2021:

- ▶ Implementation of new additional identifiers: marking code and microchip identifier.
- ▶ Animal tagging and data collection.
- ▶ Mobile application and central data base development.
- ▶ Data collection and registration.

However:

- ▶ The slaughterhouse participation was limited (only 2 000 animals have been retrieved).
- ▶ Cooperation with animal health operation took time to start.
- ▶ The herder participation in tagging and registration was too limited
- ▶ The marking code for animal traceability was not enough used.

Identifiers

- ▶ The NSO 13 digits family hold identifier should be used for herd and herder identification.
- ▶ For on field use, an AIRS 6 digits identifier, so called 'marking code', equivalent to the NSO one should be used.
- ▶ The current visual 12 digits animal identifier is appropriate provided that:
 - ▶ To simplify the current numbering rules which consider the specie and the sex.
 - ▶ For on field use, to print in bolt the last digits.
- ▶ A legal background of the 15 digits identifier of microchips is needed.

Organization

- ▶ The sharing of responsibilities between the public administration and local private service unit was appropriate.
- ▶ At the local level, there was enough human resource.
- ▶ Short one day training sessions were sufficient to make field operators able to tag animals and to register data.
- ▶ Three types of training sessions are sufficient:
 - ▶ Tagging and data registration,
 - ▶ Application,
 - ▶ Microchip affixation

Tags

▶ **Microchip for horses is feasible provided that:**

- ▶ Field procedures are well defined
- ▶ Appropriate training sessions.

▶ **Current large plastic tags for bovine and camelids are appropriate.**

▶ **Small plastic tags for goat and sheep should be reviewed to take into account :**

- ▶ A more appropriate size
- ▶ Difference between lifetime tags and transport tags

Animal tagging and registration

- ▶ Animal tagging and registration should take place during a short period from April to June to avoid summer period:
 - ▶ Cost and time consuming both for service units and herders.
 - ▶ Risk of worms in the ear of the sheep
 - ▶ Herder are dealing with other activities: wool...
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ The initial tagging and registration of all the animals including adults is a very specific operation, done only once, and work consuming.
- ▶ After, the subsequent animal tagging and registration concerning only newborn animals and mortality or sales of already registered animals require less work.

Data collection and registration

- ▶ **On field data collection should be versatile:**
 - ▶ Appropriate preprinted paper forms from the central data base
 - ▶ Handheld bare code reader
 - ▶ Smartphones
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ **Data collection should be restricted to that is strictly necessary for the AIRS purpose**
- ▶ **Data registration by the central data base should be performed locally, as quickly as possible after data collection without intermediate actor.**
- ▶ **Some herders may be involved in animal tagging and registration through smartphones.**

Coordination

- ▶ To ensure the AIRS sustainability, mitigating cost and workload both for service units and herders, AIRS, breeding and animal health field operations should be coordinated at the herd level.
- ▶ To increase the AIRS value, at least the below information should be shared with other activities:
 - ▶ The herder register.
 - ▶ Animal list per herd as a prerequisite to any efficient field operation.
 - ▶ Animal traceability as the history where the animal has been.
- ▶ One of main the purpose of the AIRS central data base should be data sharing among a maximum of actors.

Meat industry

- ▶ Meat industry implication needs a specific legal and organizational framework to:
 - ▶ Specify which data should be available for the different actors: government veterinarians, private operators...
 - ▶ Take into account that the slaughterhouse activity is not limited to an aimag.

Herder feed back

- ▶ Amount of work to handle the animals => demand to tag newborn animals.
- ▶ Less awareness.
- ▶ Few direct benefit.
- ▶ Interest of tagging large animals for fight against theft.
- ▶ Good acceptance of microchip for horses with demands for other species.
- ▶ Use of smartphone to simplify the certification process.
- ▶ Confident in an AIRS developed by the public administration.
- ▶ Some herders would like to affix visual tags and to report movements.

Thank you for your attention

