

Angus Productions Inc.'s coverage of the



USAIO Offers Data Management Plan

by **Meghan Soderstrom**

**USAIO proposes
Viatrace as database
technology supplier
for NAIS**

DENVER, CO (Feb. 2, 2006) — Representatives from the newly formed U.S. Animal Identification Organization (USAIO) shared their vision for managing an animal identification (ID) movement database on Feb. 2 at the Cattle Industry Convention, Denver, Colo. Representatives also showcased the technology they propose will fulfill the database requirements specified by the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

Global competition, consumer confidence and disease surveillance are driving the need for this system, USAIO chairman Charles Miller said. For the NAIS to successfully implemented it must be an industry-driven effort, USAIO board member Rick Stott offered.

Stott said the ID and tracking system should mirror commerce. Since livestock usually move through the supply chain in groups/lots, the system should be able to handle group/lot ID in addition to individual animal ID, he explained.

USAIO proposes that Viatrace be the database technology supplier for the system. Viatrace's Joe Queenan, said the company offers a

Web-based, multilingual database capable of managing information for multiple species. The system, called Viaherd, is capable of recording ID information for group/lots as well as for individual animals, he continued.

Queenan stressed that the system's capabilities exceed international legislative standards for livestock movement and disease surveillance. "Viaherd is an advanced crisis management tool," he said.

In addition to storing and tracking animal ID numbers, the system also contains information about specific diseases and recommendations about what to do if the diseases are detected in tracked animals.

Two weeks ago, the USAIO submitted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop the database repository. Miller said that in recent talks with USDA about the MOU, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns "encouraged the USAIO to move forward and act as a beacon for others to follow." The organization is currently doing beta-tests.



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