



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

2016 Annual Report to the Legislature



Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting System

As required by RCW 16.57.450

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Animal Services Division

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Background

During the 2015 legislative session, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) introduced, and successfully passed, Senate Bill 5733. On May 7, 2015, Governor Inslee signed into law SB 5733 authorizing the Director of WSDA to establish an electronic cattle transaction reporting system as a mechanism for reporting in-state, private transactions involving unbranded dairy cattle to the department. The law further authorized the director to adopt by rule conditions of licensure, use, and fees to support the reporting system.

The signing of SB 5733 signaled a significant milestone in a multiyear, collaborative effort with the Washington State Dairy Federation to create an alternative reporting system to replace the “15-Head Exemption,” which expired January 1, 2016. Until January 1, 2016, this exemption allowed for the private sale of 15 head or less of unbranded, dairy breed females without a livestock inspection. The exemption was eliminated to strengthen and improve Washington’s animal disease traceability system, which allows WSDA to quickly track the movement of any livestock in the event of an animal disease outbreak. The goal is to limit the spread of the disease and protect the livestock industry.

The system that was created for the dairy industry, known as “ECTR”, was designed to provide dairy producers a flexible and easy-to-use system to report private transactions of unbranded dairy cattle via the web, rather than obtaining a WSDA livestock inspection. The system cost approximately \$15,000 to create and will require a minimum annual cost of \$1,500 to maintain.

In anticipation of the ECTR legislation, the department began collaborating with the Washington State Dairy Federation and other Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) work group members in March of 2014 to develop the purpose and scope of the ECTR system. Members of the ADT work group include representatives from:

- AgriBeef Company
- Cattle Producers of Washington
- The Washington Cattle Feeders Association
- The Washington Cattlemen’s Association
- The Washington State Dairy Federation
- The Washington State Farm Bureau
- The WSDA Livestock Identification Advisory Committee

WSDA completed the development of ECTR in January 2016, making the system available to all Washington licensed dairy producers.

ADT Benefits

Animal disease traceability or knowing where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they've been, who they have comeingled with, and when is very important to ensure a rapid response when adverse animal disease events take place. An efficient and accurate ADT system can limit the economic strain on owners and communities through shorter investigations, faster control of the disease, and fewer animals subject to quarantine or euthanasia. For these reasons, the department remains committed to crafting a robust structure that protects our state's cattle industry, allows us to quickly trace any animal disease outbreak, and bolsters consumer confidence in Washington dairy and beef products. It is vital that all sectors of the cattle industry participate in traceability and at the level of integrity needed for a successful program and response.

ECTR allows the department to maintain traceability information that can be used in the event of a disease outbreak without disrupting dairy management practices. It also provides dairy producers with:

- Real-time, 24/7 electronic reporting.
- Electronic payment options (ACH/eCheck).
- Availability wherever an internet connection exists.
- Reports on transaction history.
- The ability to delegate agents to report on dairies behalf.



Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) and "15-Head" Exemption

What is ECTR?

The *electronic cattle transaction reporting (ECTR)* system will provide dairy producers the option of reporting private transactions of unbranded dairy cattle via the web rather than requesting a livestock inspection.

Why the change?

WSDA has been directed to develop an Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) system to reduce the impact to the livestock industry in the event of an animal disease outbreak. An effective ADT system requires that all animal movement and transactions be reported.

In order to ensure a robust traceability system the livestock inspection exemption known as the "15-head exemption" will be eliminated. Effective January 1, 2016, all cattle must receive a livestock inspection prior to any change of ownership or movement out of state.

The Washington State dairy industry and WSDA have partnered to develop an alternative reporting system in lieu of a livestock inspection. The goal is to complement dairy management practices and allow commerce to move with ease, while maintaining a robust database that can be used for animal disease traceability.

How can I use ECTR?

When you first go to the ECTR webpage users will need to create an account with a user name and password. Once you have an account set up in the ECTR system you are able to report transactions via the web. Here is a list of some system requirements and benefits of ECTR:

- The dairy producer who reports through ECTR must be a Grade A licensed dairy through the WSDA, or a listed approved user;
- As the dairy license owner you can list approved users to report transactions on your behalf;
- Cattle reported through ECTR must be individually identified with an approved tag;
- ECTR transactions will be assessed a per head fee of \$1.30 versus the \$1.60 per head fee assessed via a livestock inspection;
- Payments for the transactions will be made via electronic payments within the ECTR system;
- Dairy producers using the ECTR system consent to up to two site audits per year and must retain movement records for three years.



ECTR Fees vs. Livestock Inspection Fees

On the reverse side of this sheet are a few cost comparisons for ECTR and the livestock inspection fees. You will see that using the ECTR system rather than a livestock inspection will save you both time and money.

For more details on the ECTR system, please visit our website at:

agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/livestock/ectr.aspx or contact Dawn Grummer at dgrummer@agr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1987.



Examples of ECTR Costs vs. Inspection Costs

Scenario 1: A change of ownership on one head of unbranded dairy cattle when time and mileage **does not** apply.

Possible Fees	Cost of fees	Livestock Inspection Costs	ECTR Costs
Minimum Certificate Fee	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ -
Inspection Per Head Fee	\$ 1.60	\$ -	\$ -
ECTR Per Head Fee	\$ 1.30	\$ -	\$ 1.30
Beef Commission Fee	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50
ADT Fee	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.23
Time Fee	\$ 17.00	\$ -	\$ -
Mileage Fee	\$ 0.575	\$ -	\$ -
Totals		\$ 6.73	\$ 3.03*

In this scenario, dairy producers utilizing ECTR would save **55%** over a traditional livestock inspection.

Scenario 2: A change of ownership on 74 head of unbranded dairy cattle when time and mileage **does not** apply.

Possible Fees	Cost of fees	Livestock Inspection Costs	ECTR Costs
Minimum Certificate Fee	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ -
Inspection Per Head Fee	\$ 1.60	\$ 118.00	\$ -
ECTR Per Head Fee	\$ 1.30	\$ -	\$ 96.20
Beef Commission Fee	\$ 1.50	\$ 111.00	\$ 111.00
ADT Fee	\$ 0.23	\$ 17.02	\$ 17.02
Time Fee	\$ 17.00	\$ -	\$ -
Mileage Fee	\$ 0.575	\$ -	\$ -
Totals		\$ 246.42	\$ 224.22*

In this scenario, dairy producers utilizing ECTR would save **9%** over a traditional livestock inspection.

Scenario 3: A change of ownership on 33 head of unbranded dairy cattle when time and mileage **does** apply for 3 hours and 119 miles.

Possible Fees	Cost of fees	Livestock Inspection Costs	ECTR Costs
Minimum Certificate Fee	\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ -
Inspection Per Head Fee	\$ 1.60	\$ -	\$ -
ECTR Per Head Fee	\$ 1.30	\$ -	\$ 42.90
Beef Commission Fee	\$ 1.50	\$ 49.50	\$ 49.50
ADT Fee	\$ 0.23	\$ 7.59	\$ 7.59
Time Fee	\$ 17.00	\$ 51.00	\$ -
Mileage Fee	\$ 0.575	\$ 63.25	\$ -
Totals		\$ 171.34	\$ 99.99*

In this scenario, dairy producers utilizing ECTR would save **42%** over a traditional livestock inspection.

*Additional credit card or electronic payment service fees may apply.

ECTR Activity Status

To date, there has been minimal activity within the ECTR system. Out of approximately 400 licensed dairy producers in the state, six have registered to use the system and zero transactions have been reported.

The purpose of this report is to document all examinations and inspections of cattle and records of electronic cattle transaction reporting license holders performed by the department. This includes details of any actions taken by the department following the examinations and inspections. In the absence of reported transactions, no examinations and inspections have been conducted.

ECTR Outreach

Since the release of ECTR and its resulting use, WSDA has conducted extensive outreach focused on educating dairy producers of the system's availability and the importance of participating in traceability. This has included the "Want an alternative to a livestock inspection?" campaign that highlighted the dairy industry's Green Tag and ECTR alternatives. As part of the effort, WSDA has made use of its social media sites, created an ECTR webpage with charts describing costs of a livestock inspection versus ECTR, mailed postcards to all licensed dairy producers in the state, sent letters to dairy producers with more detailed information regarding reporting requirements, and developed new informational fact sheets made available at the annual dairy conference. WSDA has also collaborated with the Washington State Dairy Federation, which conducted its own outreach effort to educate their membership regarding livestock inspections or use of the two alternative programs that are available exclusively to licensed dairies.

Moving Forward

WSDA intends to continue working with the Washington State Dairy Federation and other industry leaders to communicate the importance of traceability, increase awareness that the do-nothing approach is no longer viable, and encourage participation utilizing one of the three options available. Efforts will include continued outreach and when necessary, enforcement of the requirements. It is critical that we ensure a robust, effective, and reliable traceability system that protects our state's livestock industries and Washington State's citizenry as a whole.

Two postcards about the ECTR system mailed out to all dairy producers.

Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) and "15-Head" Exemption

Are you a dairy producer who sells cattle without a livestock inspection?
If so, you need to know that beginning January 1, 2016, the livestock inspection exemption known as the "15-head exemption" will be eliminated. As a result, all cattle must receive a livestock inspection prior to any change of ownership or movement out of state.

What is the alternative to a livestock inspection?
The Washington State dairy industry and WSDA have partnered to develop an alternative system that would allow electronic reporting of private transactions of unbranded dairy cattle. If implemented, the electronic cattle transaction reporting (ECTR) system would provide WSDA-licensed dairy producers the option of reporting cattle transactions via the web rather than requesting a livestock inspection.

Why the change?
WSDA has been directed to develop an effective Animal Disease Traceability program which would limit the harm to the livestock industry in the event of an animal disease outbreak. But an ADT system requires that all animal movement and transactions be reported, which is why the 15-head exemption is being eliminated.

Where can I get more information?
To learn more about ECTR, please visit agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/livestock or contact Dawn Grummer at dgrummer@agr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1987.

Electronic Cattle Transaction Reporting (ECTR) system is now available!

Effective January 1, 2016, the "15-head" exemption is no longer an option.
All cattle are now required to be inspected for brands or other proof of ownership when offered for sale or when there is movement out of state. The development of ECTR offers a flexible and easy-to-use system to report private transactions of unbranded dairy cattle via the web rather than requesting a livestock inspection.

Benefits of using the ECTR system:

- Real-time, 24/7 electronic reporting
- Electronic payments (ACH/eCheck)
- Available wherever an internet connection exists
- Generate reports on transaction history
- Ability to delegate agents to report on dairies behalf

ECTR allows the department to maintain traceability information that can be used in the event of a disease outbreak without disrupting dairy management practices.

Where can I get more information?
For information on the requirements to use ECTR, to start using the ECTR system, or to request a brand inspection, please visit our website at agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/livestock or call (360) 902-1855.