

Improving Livestock Traceability

Options for the Livestock Export Industry

LIVEXchange Darwin November 2015



AGRICULTURAL CONNECTIONS

A U S T R A L I A

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Livestock Export, ESCAS, Identification and Traceability

- ▶ Compliance with ESCAS, robust identity and traceability are crucial to industry in defending welfare commitment
- ▶ Inability to maintain traceability undermines ESCAS
- ▶ Permanent identification required to ensure animals that are removed from and those that remain in approved supply chains can be identified at all times

Methodology

Desktop Review & Interviews

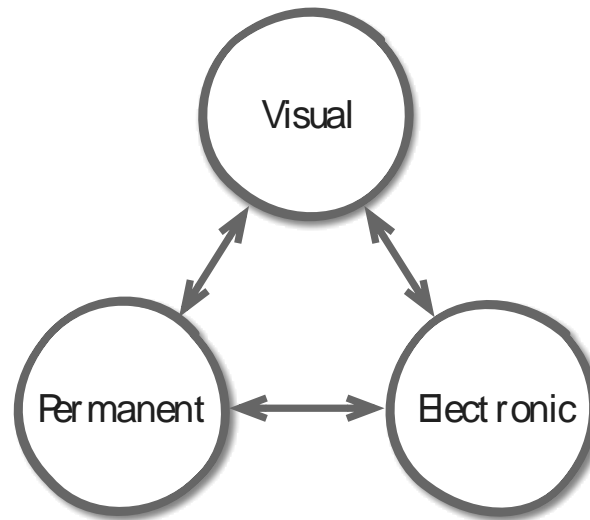
- ▶ Commercially available ID methods for cattle, sheep and goats in Australia were reviewed
- ▶ Commercially available ID methods for cattle, sheep and goats in New Zealand, the USA, Europe, South America and other relevant countries were reviewed
- ▶ Review new developments in ID methods for livestock or methods that are being developed
- ▶ Review ID and tracking methods used in other industries to determine suitability and adaptability for livestock identification

Findings

Benefits of ID & Traceability

- ▶ Ownership, trade support, food safety, animal welfare, **improved efficiency**, biosecurity and research
- ▶ Protects reputation and reduces losses in the event of disease outbreak
- ▶ Data accumulated through monitoring animal identification and performance can **inform commercial decisions**, research and extension
- ▶ Incentive for industry to manage identification and data for their **commercial benefit**, not punitive or regulatory

Necessary Attributes



- ▶ The combination of these three attributes must form part of any robust identification and traceability system
- ▶ There is no single identification method that provides all three attributes
- ▶ Permanent and robust identification with electronic capture provides a commercial opportunity, through data analysis, to every supply chain participant

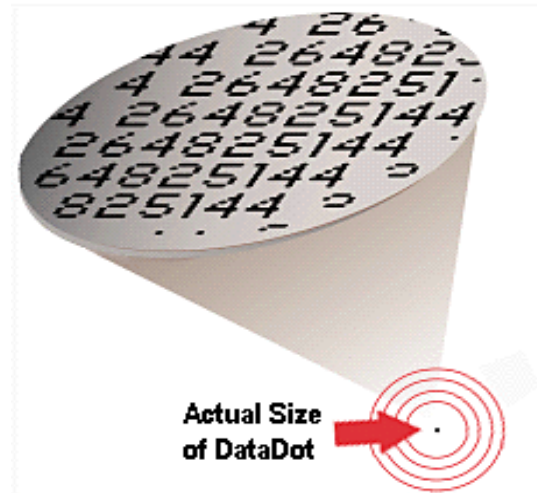
High Tech Solutions

On the Horizon

- ▶ DNA sampling and retina scanning can provide certainty of ID
- ▶ Now come in handheld units suited to field use, but are expensive, time lag for DNA results, retinal scanning requires head baling

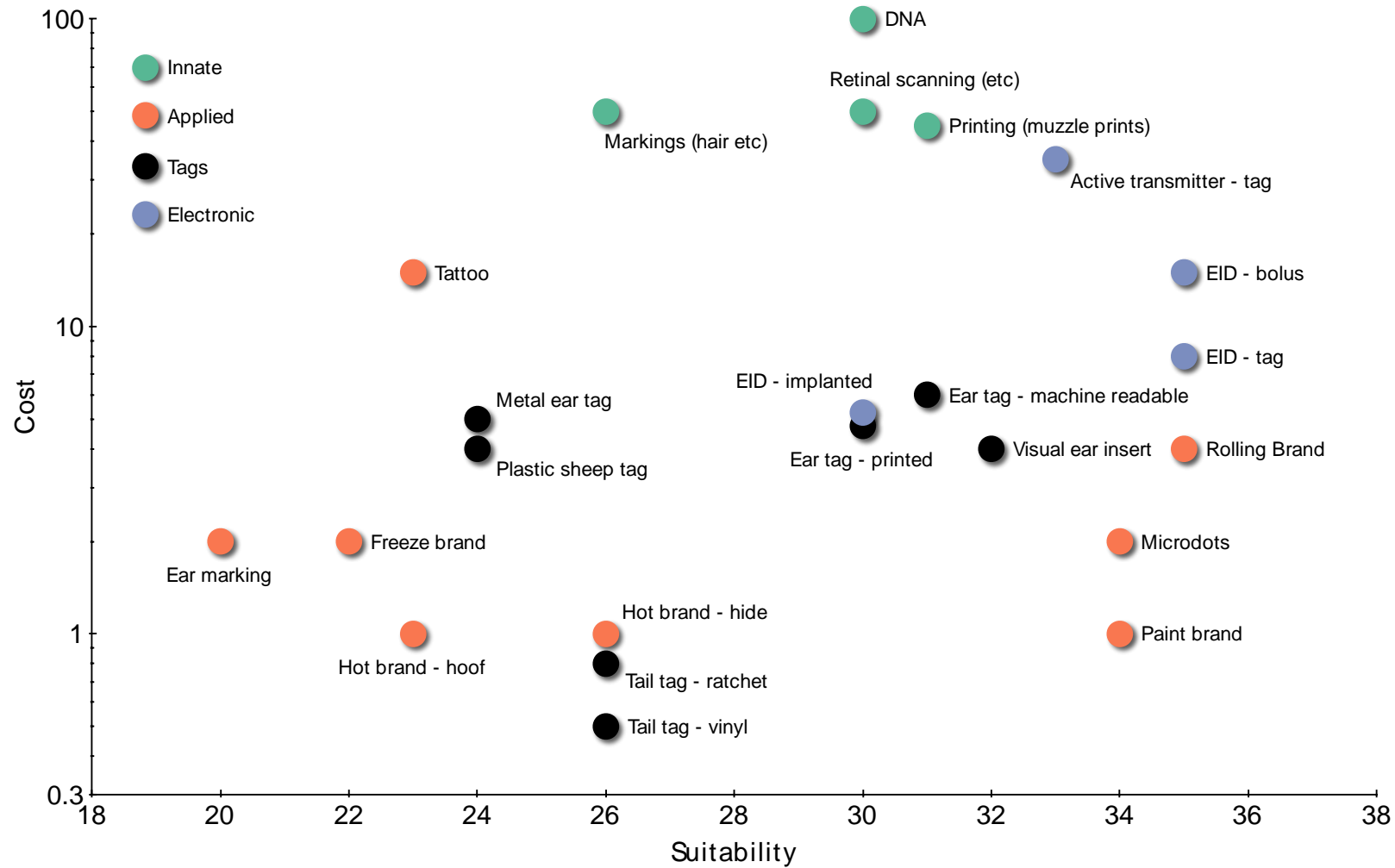


Microdots



- ▶ Microdots, applied in fluorescing adhesive are being used to deter stock theft in Australia
- ▶ Applied to the horns (permanent) or hooves (up to 12 months) they may provide an additional tool to manage “leaky” supply chains

Identification Evaluation



Identification Preferences

A Combination Of

1. RFID ear tags together with a highly visible indelible mark being:
2. A. Paint brand of distinctive shape and colour, applied to a specific body area, together identifying the animal to an exporter and consignment
or
B. Rollerbrand of distinctive design and colour, applied along the backline, together identifying the animal to an exporter and consignment
or
C. Visual ear insert of distinctive shape and colour identifying the animal to an exporter and consignment

The combined methods provide permanent & robust identification and a deterrent to livestock being removed from approved supply chains

Roller Brand & Ear Insert



Traceability

Australia

- ▶ NLIS in Australia provides excellent traceability (for cattle)
 - ▶ But no follow through after loading
- ▶ Lightweight handheld scanners with camera, data & GPS capability could be used in abattoirs or feedlots globally to confirm slaughter
- ▶ Industry owned (independently managed) database to ensure integrity and validate ESCAS / LGAP

AND

- ▶ Provide potential commercial benefit through the supply chain

What next?

- ▶ Draft report has been submitted
- ▶ Final report due by 30th December
- ▶ Presentations to industry
- ▶ Recommendation to investigate supply chain efficiencies that can be extracted from better use of RFID records

Thank you