

Livestock Information financial year 2021/22 and beyond

As the Livestock Information Programme enters its final financial year, Livestock Information Ltd is building five things:

- 1.** A distinct cloud environment with applications to enable the collection, interrogation and sharing of data from both government and industry
- 2.** A multispecies Livestock Information Service (LIS) that will master data about livestock in England (initially sheep, goats, deer, cattle and pigs) and associate it with data about keepers and holdings. This service will meet statutory needs in England for disease control, food safety and trade, while also enabling further data collection for industry and for wider government policy objectives
- 3.** A data factory and business intelligence capability for England that will enable the interrogation, presentation and integration of datasets that are either held and mastered within the LI cloud or generated elsewhere
- 4.** An approach with the UK administrations where UK traceability is enhanced during and after transition, not compromised
- 5.** A service and quality management that will drive constant improvements in the timeliness, quality and cost of data (in terms of its collection and use)

While it builds the Livestock Information Service, Livestock Information will be responsible for legacy sheep, deer, goat and pig services throughout 2021/22, both in their current form and through the transition period into the Livestock Information Service.

When the service has been built, Livestock Information Ltd will be responsible for operating and developing it and have a role to play in making sure that wider benefits unlocked by the Livestock Information Programme (LIP) to build the service are realised.

The UK view

We have made very good progress at a UK level determining how the LIS will work in a wider context where Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are building their own multi-species services. We will share more on this shortly, but we are confident that the integrity of UK traceability will be enhanced by the changes.



Livestock Information Service back office “absolutely perfect”

Our current focus continues on building the core infrastructure for the LIS, including our cloud, which will be capable of handling both statutory and core data, being easy to link with other systems, create a single point of authentication for users and so on. We are working with a really strong Microsoft team to do that so we can all be confident that we are building a quality infrastructure.

We have made good progress building the user interface for farmers who want to make their notifications digitally and have started to engage primarily with sheep farmers.

We have said since the very beginning that the Livestock Information Service will make life easier for farmers, producers, abattoirs and other stakeholders who need to record livestock births and movements, using one, easy-to-use interface for all species, so it's heartening to receive feedback like this from one sheep farmer: *“My initial thought is that I'm pretty hopeless, but I found that quite straightforward.”*

We have also made strong progress developing our back office user interface. This will be the web portal that our internal service teams will use to process paper applications for sheep.

Mike Mahoney, Customer Experience Agent, at Capita, said this when he saw a recent demonstration of the LIS back office: *“Everything that has been presented today has been designed with me and my team in mind... So far, as we are now, it is absolutely perfect.”*

This was the feedback that he went on to say that *“this system that your team are developing is what we should have had in the first place; everything that we need is being catered for in this new system. There's no stone left unturned when it comes to our requirements. And at the same time there's no stone left unturned when it comes to the requirements of Defra etc. as well.”*

These are Mike's own personal views, not those of any organisation. If you'd like to hear the full 90 seconds of Mike's feedback, please [follow this link](#).

Ear Tag Allocation System (formerly known as LUIS)

A critical enabler of the Livestock Information Service, is the [Ear Tag Allocation System](#). This will be the multispecies replacement for the two current outdated systems - Sheep and Goat Ear Tag Allocation System (S&GETAS) and the Cattle Ear Tag Allocation System (CETAS). This will be the single system in which to order ear tag numbers for ALL species.

Over the past 2 years, The team have brought together historical herd and keeper data from the existing Defra SAM and CETAS/SGETAS systems. With bulk data uploads of 431 million cattle, sheep, and goat records, the new Ear Tag Allocation System now has its base- data to operate effectively. The data will be continually updated through daily data uploads, without compromising APHA access to the data, or 'breaking anything'.

The next steps for the team will be putting the Ear Tag Allocation System into a functioning test environment, before it goes live – testing with Ear Tag Manufacturers and de-risking delivery of the new service due in Summer/Autumn 2021.

If you want to find out more about the new Tag Allocation System contact luis@livestockinformation.org.uk



Data

We are now receiving a subset of data from the Cattle Tracing Service (CTS) – a regular feed that will allow us to progress value-add data reporting for ARLA (the Swedish-Danish multinational dairy cooperative), Nottingham University and AHDB's Medicine hub. It starts to open the possibilities with the data and is the start of demonstrating what Livestock Information can deliver in the future.

Previously we have been working with a one-off cut of old data. We can now start to move into a production-ready state so as to be able to provide valuable data to end-users while supporting the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS).

Kathi Simpson, Head of Data, says, *“We are demonstrating the data and analytics capability with up-to-date data. Within the next month we should be able to deliver data for ARLA and Nottingham University, closely followed by the Medicine Hub. This is a great advert for us and how we can exploit data and our analytics capability.”*

We have worked with stakeholders and third-party service providers to get the feeds of data and had to make sure that we have the right data protection agreements and processes in place for both receiving and provisioning this data. It's been a great example of teamwork. This is the start of demonstrating what LI and the data team can deliver but there's much more to come. The future scope is endless for data and analytics and it's a really exciting area to be driving forward.”

Sheep and cattle transition

We are focused on building transition plans for cattle and for sheep and will be discussing this in detail with colleagues in the Defra group in mid-February. These plans will reflect an incremental approach to transition from existing services in a way that will protect traceability and user experience as a priority. As part of this, we will discuss the links to consultation timescales and scope, and both Defra and LI will be able to update on the overall approach and timelines in March.

Video animations

We have created a short series of animations to help bring the Livestock Information Programme to life, which are all housed in the [video section of our website](#). Please feel free to socialise these amongst your contacts. Over time, we aim to build a library of these that not only explain what the Programme is but also to show the progress we are making.

We are also keen to expand our list of topics and to include footage of and comments from stakeholders, from our strategic partners to farmer end-users. If you'd like to help us cocreate some of these messages – by providing copy, talking heads, access to members for quotes and information gathering or, where applicable, providing resources – please contact jordan.howard@livestockinformation.org.uk

