

Advocacy Comments on the Livestock Traceability Rule

On December 5, 2011 the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed public comments with the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on the proposed rule entitled Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate. A copy of Advocacy's comments may be viewed at www.sba.gov/advocacy.

- On August 11, 2011, APHIS published a proposed rule establishing national official identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of livestock moving interstate. Under the proposed rule, livestock, such as cattle and poultry, that are moved in interstate transit are required to be officially identified with a tag and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation.
- APHIS concluded that this rule will not have a significant economic effect on a significant number of small businesses.
- Advocacy has heard from small businesses in the poultry industry that this rule will have a significant economic effect and may lead to many small poultry business closures.
- Advocacy encourages APHIS to reach out to small businesses in the industry to obtain more accurate information and publish an IRFA discussing the costs of this rule to small businesses in each of the industries that will be affected.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy> or contact Kia Dennis at 202-205-6936.