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PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

National Livestock
Identification System

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The Australian experience with animal RFID systems

ICAR 2012 – Cork, Ireland

Department of Primary Industries Victoria
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Why?

- Exotic disease control
- Food safety
- Endemic disease control
- Market access

Australia exports over 60% of its beef production.

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NLIS Implementation

- Commenced in the State of Victoria in early 1999
- The two main drivers were the need to trace cattle following chemical residue detections and the need to have a ‘whole of life’ system to support assurances about ‘HGP Freedom’.
- Phased in nationally on a mandatory basis from 2002
- NLIS is now a mature system.
- Successful because industry and Government have worked in partnership during implementation

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Crucial Components

- Each State maintains a register of cattle properties (premises)
- Each property has a Property Identification Code (PIC)
- RFID ear tags / boluses for individual animals
- RFID hardware and software to read (scan) and record RFID devices.
- National database

PICs are linked to land

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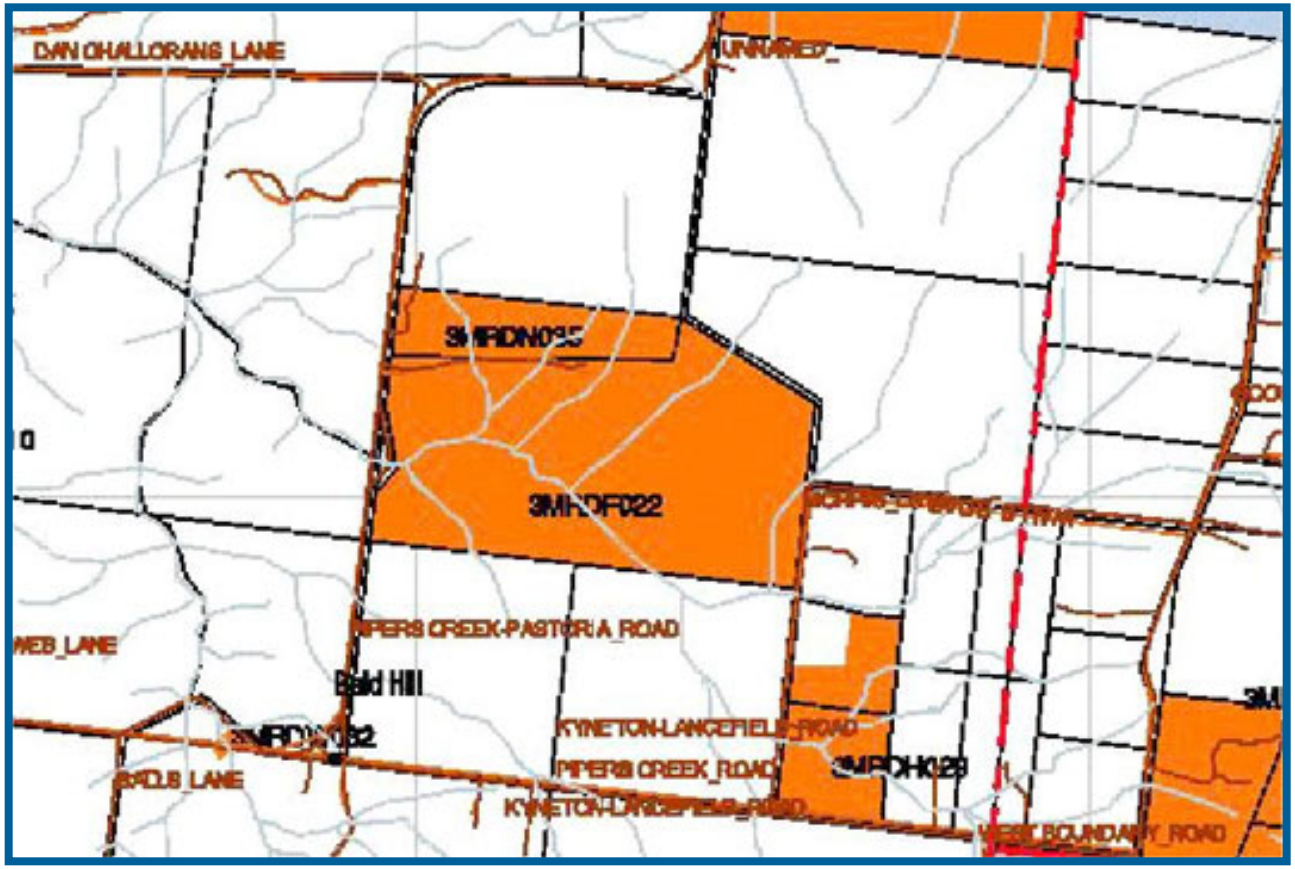

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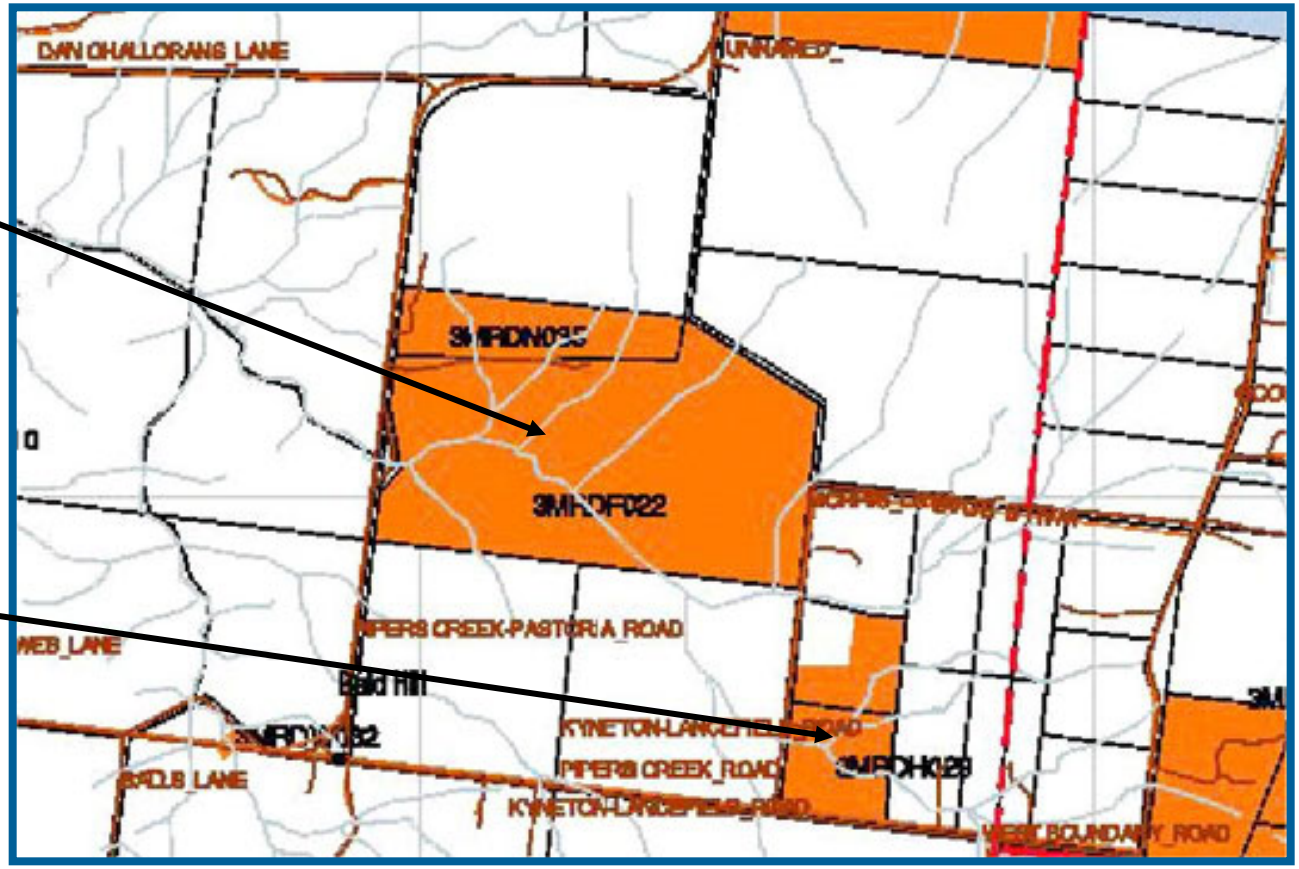
NLIS Tags are allocated to PICs



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NLIS Tags

- NLIS Breeder Tags (White): used to identify cattle on their property of birth. ALL cattle must be identified with an NLIS tag before they leave their property of birth.

- NLIS Post Breeder Tags (Orange): used to identify introduced cattle not already identified with a NLIS tag, e.g. tag torn out.

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How does NLIS work?

All cattle movements are recorded on the NLIS Database.

NLIS tags

Cattle producer

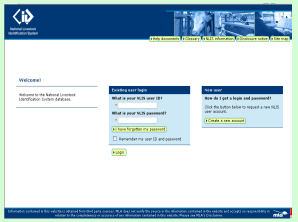
Saleyard transactions

Feedlot

Abattoir

DATA DATA DATA DATA DATA

NLIS Database



NLIS Database statistics

- On average the NLIS Database receives between 90,000 – 120,000 cattle movement records per day

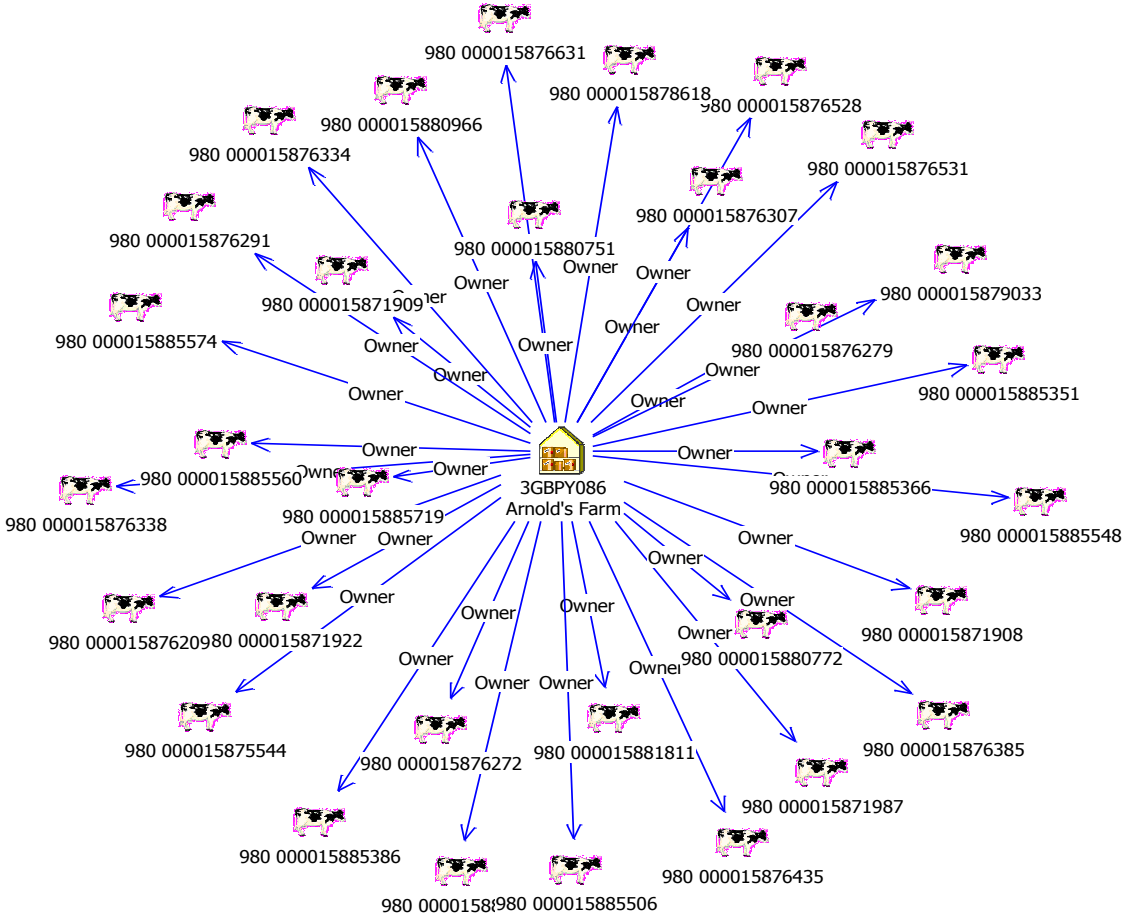
- 99.5% of transactions are received electronically, typically within 24 hours of the movement

Traceability expectations

- System must facilitate traceback of a suspect animal and traceforward of all companions within 24 hours for movements within the previous 30 days. *Currently, this can be achieved within 2 hours.*

- System must facilitate traceback over the life of a suspect animal and traceforward for all companions within 48 hours. *Currently, this can be achieved within 4 hours.*

Taking it to the next level



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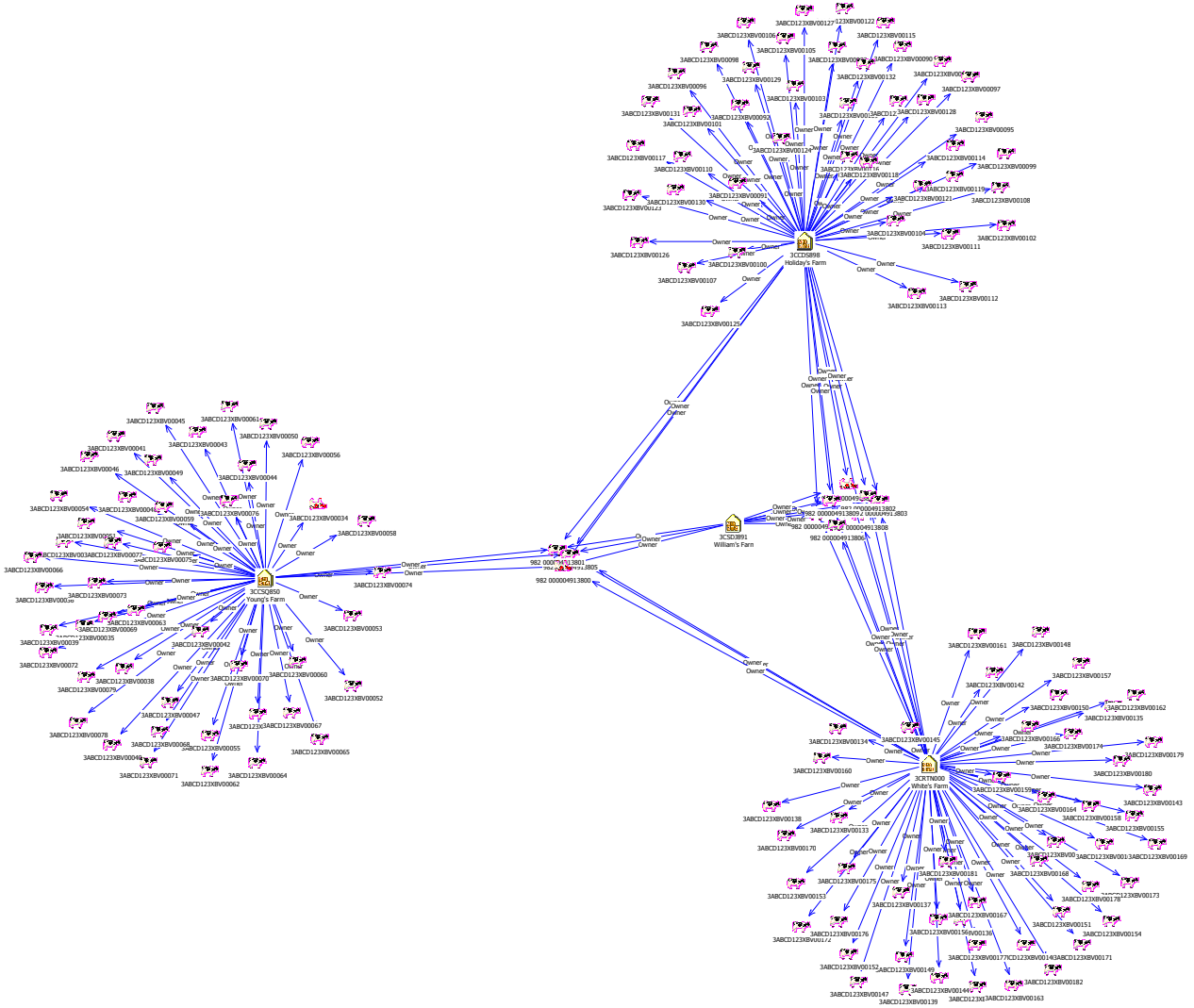

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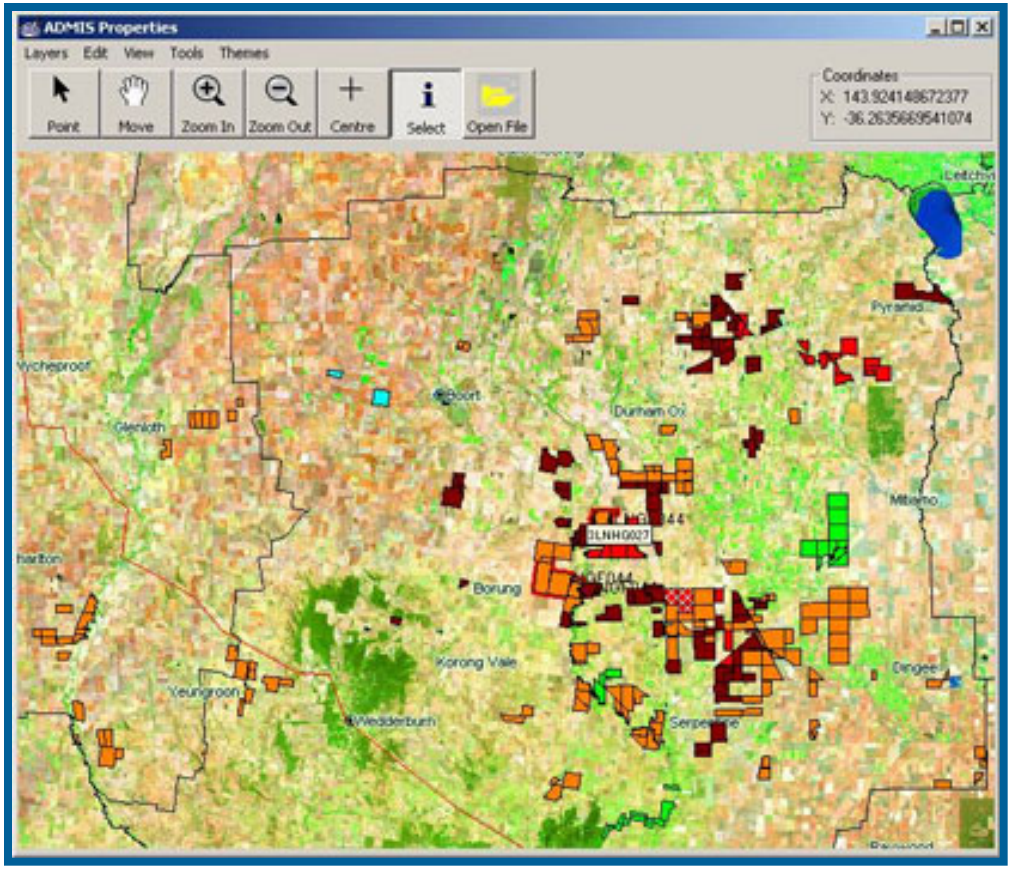
Visual overlay



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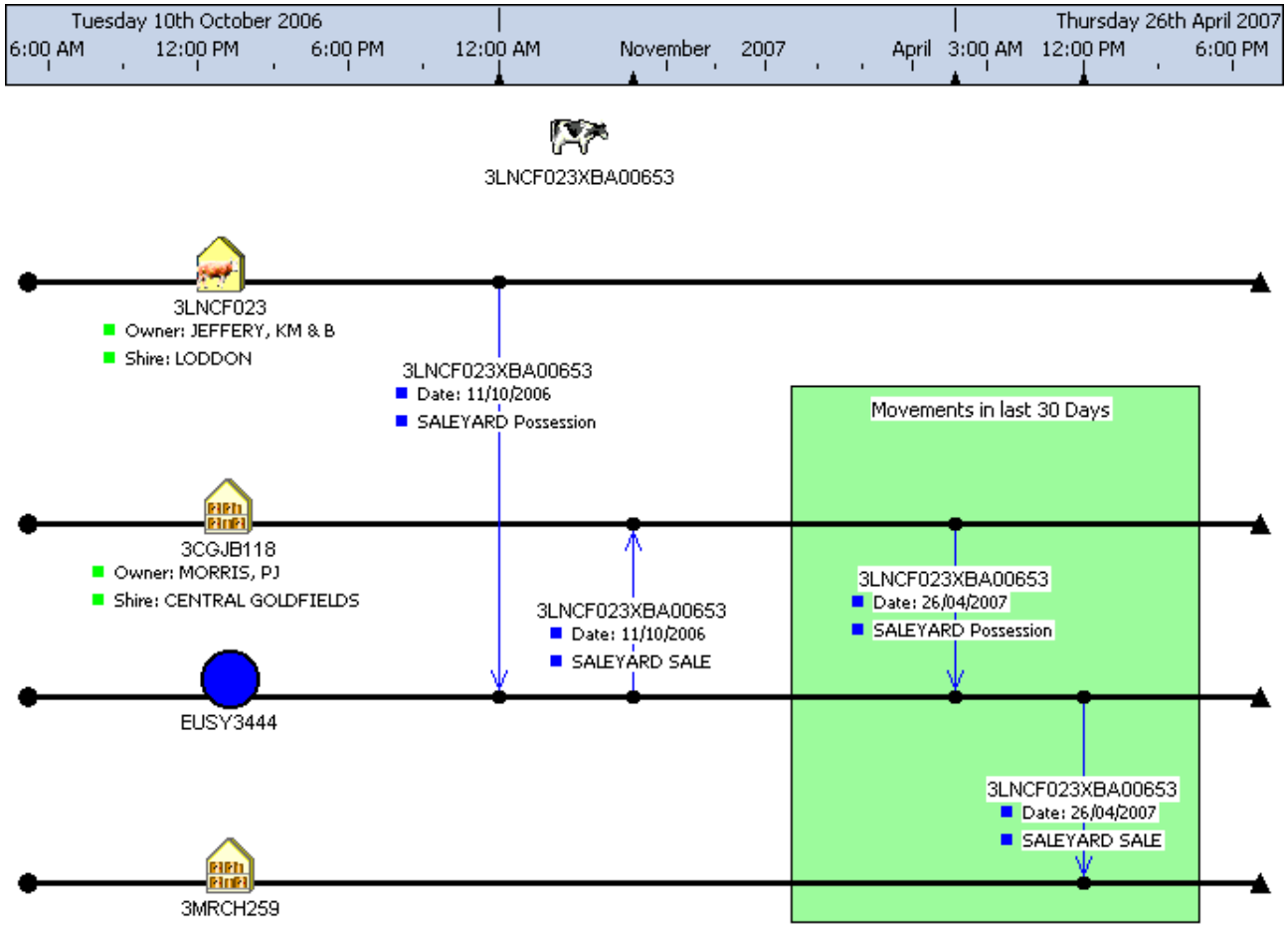
Timeline Review



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Overcoming the obstacles

- Communication with all levels of the industry.
- Basic understanding of technology
- Human factors…# 1 reason for failure is hardware was not turned on.
- Effective compliance monitoring.
- The ‘plateau’ factor.
- Review, review, review and then review.

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Thank you!

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