

Mi-Corporation Helps *USDA* Switch from Paper to Mobile Data Collection for Quicker, More Accurate Cattle Testing



The **USDA** takes its responsibility for protecting the US food supply very seriously. With increasing threats from cattle diseases, the agency needed a fail-proof mobile data collection solution that would add speed and flexibility to the process and deliver greater peace of mind to government officials and US consumers alike. Mi-Corporation answered the call.



Challenge

Over the past two decades, the threat of cattle disease has at times rocked the US beef industry. Previously, much of the cattle inspection process was done using pen and paper, which required manually logging data into systems after the fact. In the past, inspectors from the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) could test up to 2,000 cattle per month using paper-based inspection methods.

Increasing threats to the US food supply, from disease or other sources, in the US and globally required that stringent screening requirements be put in place at the USDA—and results needed to be available more quickly than ever before. Agency officials wanted to enable field inspectors to electronically record test results and instantly route them to a database. With inspectors moving from point to point, it was imperative that any technology solution implemented be highly mobile.



Solution

With a great sense of urgency, the USDA directed Mi-Corporation to build a mobile data collection network to speed up inspections and aggregate the results. The team had a short deadline of just 12 weeks.

Mi-Corporation delivered a highly-mobile solution in which tablets were used for the data inspections. The USDA deployed 90 mobile devices running the Mi-Corporation software. With the mobile software, inspectors could record test-site conditions, results, and sample characteristics. Results were sent directly from the devices to the APHIS database for real-time access.



Results

The new mobile data capabilities allowed inspectors to significantly speed up their testing process. Prior to the mobile implementation, inspectors could sample just 20,000 cattle per year. However, those numbers quickly increased.



In the first year after the new mobile data solution was implemented, inspectors sampled 176,468 cattle—**more than 8x the number sampled in the year before**. During the second year after implementation, that number increased to 260,000 cattle—**13x the original number!** Those numbers continued to improve long after the initial implementation and the USDA gained renewed confidence in the health of the country's beef supply.

ABOUT MI-CORPORATION

Two decades ago, Mi-Corporation pioneered data capture on tablets and coined the term “mobile data collection.” Mi-Corporation’s Mobile Impact Platform provides a rich and powerful toolset that allows organizations to custom-build flexible solutions that improve workforce efficiencies, increase productivity, reduce costs and increase profits.

You will find our solutions deployed across a diverse industry base at organizations like Transport for London, Security Alarm, Bureau Veritas, the NC Department of Agriculture, the United Nations, The US Department of Transportation, and many others. In addition, Mi-Corporation is the proud recipient of many prestigious industry awards including a 2015 and 2016 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for our work in the Public Sector.