

Premises Registration Resources and Update in Pennsylvania and Other States

Introduction

Protecting American animal agriculture by safeguarding animal health is vital to the wellbeing of all citizens. It promotes human health; provides wholesome, reliable, and secure food resources; mitigates national economic threats; and enhances a sustainable environment. Essential to achieving this goal is an efficient and effective animal and premises identification program. More than 100 animal industry and state-federal government professionals representing more than 70 allied associations/organizations collectively assessed and suggested workable improvements to meet further U.S. animal identification needs. The goal of premises and animal identification is to coordinate a national animal identification plan with all states. Fundamental to controlling any disease threat, foreign or domestic, to the nation's animal resources is to have a system that can identify individual animals or groups, the premises where they are located, and the date of entry to that premises. Further, in order to achieve optimal success in controlling or eradicating an animal health threat, the ability to retrieve that information within 48 hours of confirmation of a disease outbreak and to implement intervention strategies is necessary.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has observed the changing conditions in the marketplace, and has responded by building a premises identification program to identify premises that have had direct contact with an animal disease. Pennsylvania is among states implementing premise ID on a voluntary basis. Premises identification allows the Commonwealth to communicate disease outbreak information to producers. Premises identification also provides disease prevention and removes unnecessary quarantines, as information that is more precise is available to veterinarians trying to determine the extent of disease outbreak. Finally, premises identification allows the State to deploy resources to contain the spread of a disease.

When a farm is registered, it receives a number linked to the location. While Pennsylvania's premise ID program is a voluntary program, producers have been receiving premise ID notifications in the mail assigning a seven-digit number to their farm to replace existing numbers already on file for various health programs and consolidating them into one new number that is part of a Geographic Information System or GSI. The number also works with the Pennsylvania Animal Health Emergency Reporting Diagnostic System (PAHERDS) and Pennsylvania Laboratory Information Managements System (PALIMS). These state programs track animal disease testing and reporting. "PAFarms" is the official name of Pennsylvania's farm premise identification (ID) program, a GIS that allows the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to manage emergencies within the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Systems. PAFarms is a cooperative effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Registering farms is the first phase of the National Animal Identification System or NAIS. The second and third phases of NAIS involve tagging animals and, using a database to track the animals. The animal ID phase of the program proposes different methods depending on the

species. The state will not require horse owners to acquire a premise ID or individual animal IDs because horses are not part of the food system. For cattle, the preference is radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag that has been implemented by some groups. On farms where animals move in groups, such as poultry, groups will identify the animals. Individual animal identification focuses on cattle because cattle tend to have more stops along the way in the production chain. How to identify sheep and goats has not been determined but tags are a possibility. Price for these tags range from \$1.60 to \$3.25 each.

The RFID tags are advancing technology that consists of a miniscule microchip, which can be half the size of a grain of sand. Inscribed in the RFID tag will be the three-digit country code and the twelve digit animal number. These numbers will coordinate with the transponder. Most RFID tags utilize power from the tag reader's initial radio signal to transmit their response requiring no batteries.

The following are documents found in Lancaster Farming or on PaFarms.org (Jan 2007)
<http://www.lancasterfarming.com> & www.pafarms.org, <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov>

Lancaster Farming: News in Pennsylvania:

Farmers Challenge NAIS

Submitted on Thu, 11/09/2006 - 1:27pm. DAVE LEFEVER Editor

LITITZ, Pa. —Farmers heard concerns about the Pennsylvania premise identification program and the larger proposed National Animal Identification System at a Nov. 4 meeting at the Midway Mennonite Reception Center. Dr. Mary Zanoni of Canton, N.Y. gave background on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and pointed out how she believes the program will be costly to small-scale farmers, and threaten their liberty. Zanoni, a former attorney for federal courts in New Jersey, is director of Farm for Life, an organization based in upstate New York dedicated to promoting local agriculture. About 35 people attended the meeting last Saturday. A majority of them were Amish and Mennonite dairy and livestock producers.

An October meeting in Morgantown hosted by the Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff drew about 80 people, many of them opposed to premise ID and NAIS, as were those organizing and attending the Lititz meeting. Wolff said that the Pennsylvania premise ID program received about \$600,000 in USDA funding. However, Zanoni said the original rationale for NAIS when proposed by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture was to increase international trade. More recently, the focus has shifted to the program's potential animal health benefits, a move to sell the idea to producers. Supporters of NAIS, she said, are corporations who will profit from it.

To date, producers have not been paying for any part of the identification program, including premise IDs or eartags. However, that is bound to change, according to Zanoni. Dairy and cattle producers will need to pay for RFID tags. “(The government) will tell you now it’s

free,” Zanoni said. “What they don’t tell you up front is that there will be costs to producers.” For the premise ID program, she estimated the yearly cost to producers could be about \$50 per farm, based on calculations she made on the resources it would take to manage the system. Wolff said that Pennsylvania does not charge for premise IDs and will not charge for them in the future.

Farmers who have no previous numbers on a government database are not required to have a number, although “We encourage them to participate,” Wolff said. Zanoni said that the accuracy of the tags could be about 70 percent, potentially causing havoc. The cost of more accurate tags is about \$20 each, she said. RFID tag accuracy has not been a discussion point. “I understand that they’re pretty accurate,” Wolff said.

For the third phase of NAIS, Zanoni said she expects that a cost will be charged to producers for each report filed on animal status change. According to Zanoni, the system favors large-scale operations, where only one premise ID is needed to cover a great number of animals. For small-scale farmers individual ID numbers may be required because of management practices unique to the system.

Of greater concern is the concept that their information will be contained in a government database. For producers concerned about privacy of information who already have a herd number on file with the state (prior to premise ID), Wolff said, “We just keep trying to stress that they are already in the database.” Beside worries about government access to private information, some are skeptical about assurances that the information could end up in the hands of adverse interests such as animal rights’ groups. The direction of the Pennsylvania premise ID program appears not to be limited to animals since PAFarms is not just for farm animals. Similar to PDA’s need to notify animal producers in the event of a disease outbreak in their area, PDA also needs the capability to notify non-animal farm owners of plant pathogens that may affect their area.

Zanoni handed out a letter that farmers could return with premise ID notifications to the state with “cause of refusal” including USDA’s claim that premise ID participation is voluntary. Reasons for rejecting the program include religious objections, cost of the program, further consolidation of agriculture in corporate hands, and negative effects on personal privacy. A federal bill, S. 3862, and its version in the House of Representatives, H.R. 6042, says that USDA is not allowed to mandate NAIS, but the bill is a trick to get individual states to mandate the program. The legislation, known as the Talent-Emerson Bill, also exempts most of the NAIS program from public disclosure. The government has no real right to conduct NAIS. Zanoni said that part of her decision to oppose NAIS was because of a letter she received from an Amish man in New York State “saying he would rather be a martyr than comply.” She said this week that another Amish man from Pennsylvania recently told her that his children farming in Wisconsin have chosen to raise produce rather than animals to avoid complying with premise ID and NAIS.

Other presenters at the meeting included organizers James Landis of Lebanon County and Jim Schlosser of Lancaster County. Landis noted that premise ID and NAIS violate the U.S. Constitution, including the First Amendment. Landis called premise and animal ID “a direct affront” to the small producers who represent 92 percent of the farmers in Pennsylvania. It restricts freedom of farmers to produce healthy food and is a dictatorship of the food chain.

Schlosser focused on biblical references to end-times theology, linking NAIS to the “mark of the beast” referred to in the Book of Revelations.

In Pennsylvania, a bill in the Senate, S. 865, passed earlier this year to approve premise ID, but the legislation stalled in the state House. PDA went ahead with it without a law in place.

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov>

State	Estimated ¹ Number of Premises	Premises Registered ²	Percent of Premises Registered
Alabama	35,538	3,276	9.2%
Alaska	354	53	15.0%
Arizona	5,170	581	11.2%
Arkansas	37,614	7,257	19.3%
California	32,500	4,572	14.1%
Colorado	22,951	5,939	25.9%
Connecticut	2,539	17	0.7%
Delaware	1,553	651	41.9%
Florida	28,731	3,869	13.5%
Georgia	35,431	3,007	8.5%
Hawaii	1,391	286	20.6%
Idaho	18,754	17,930	95.6%
Illinois	30,046	7,744	25.8%
Indiana	34,790	25,829	74.2%
Iowa	47,273	14,845	31.4%
Kansas	39,346	4,746	12.1%
Kentucky	61,251	11,289	18.4%
Louisiana	19,677	1,090	5.5%
Maine	4,213	412	9.8%
Maryland	7,837	1,317	16.8%
Massachusetts	3,555	1,683	47.3%
Michigan	29,011	17,430	60.1%
Minnesota	44,193	11,631	26.3%
Mississippi	29,312	1,301	4.4%
Missouri	79,018	13,275	16.8%
Montana	19,708	771	3.9%
Nebraska	30,841	13,005	42.2%
Nevada	2,522	1,173	46.5%
New Hampshire	2,277	38	1.7%
New Jersey	5,315	990	18.6%
New Mexico	11,250	901	8.0%
New York	25,559	14,023	54.9%
North Carolina	36,142	7,833	21.7%
North Dakota	14,085	8,018	56.9%
Ohio	48,073	3,771	7.8%
Oklahoma	71,420	6,444	9.0%
Oregon	28,634	2,444	8.5%
Pennsylvania	42,302	26,818	63.4%
Rhode Island	504	5	1.0%
South Carolina	16,120	2,172	13.5%
South Dakota	22,356	4,885	21.9%
Tennessee	68,010	13,046	19.2%
Texas	187,118	25,609	13.7%
Utah	12,460	8,278	66.4%
Vermont	4,438	301	6.8%
Virginia	37,673	4,239	11.3%
Washington	22,155	1,400	6.3%
West Virginia	17,670	8,525	48.2%
Wisconsin	51,373	55,960	108.9%
Wyoming	8,227	879	10.7%
Total	1,438,280	371,558	25.80%

¹ The National Agriculture Statistics Survey (NASS) estimates 1.4 million livestock farms in the United States (premises more than \$1,000 in annual income). Premises with more than one species are counted one time.

² Premises registered in the National Animal Identification System

Examples of the Premises Registration Update and other Privacy Issues:

United States Department of Agriculture Program

The USDA has initiated the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). NAIS is an information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond to animal disease events. The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a national program intended to identify animals and track them as they meet with animals other than herd mates from their premises of origin. The NAIS program—a voluntary State-Federal-Industry partnership—could protect premises; reduce hardships caused by an animal disease; and protect markets. The NAIS is national program to identify animals and track them as they move from one location to another or commingle with other animals. The purpose of the program is to create a database that will allow a rapid trace back in the event of a disease. The NAIS will be capable of tracking an animal, or group of animals, back to the original premises within 48 hours. The NAIS will promote the recognition, containment, and eradication of animal disease. The NAIS database will protect against bio-terrorism and animal diseases.

According to the NAIS, a premise is defined in the following terms:

“A premise is a location that, in the judgment of the State Animal Health Official or Area Veterinarian in Charge, and when appropriate in consultation with the affected producer, represents a unique geographic entity where activity affecting the health and /or trace ability of food producing animals may occur or represents the producer contact location when extensive grazing operations exist.”

The maintenance, management, and organization of the premises system are the duty of each state's animal health officials. Many of the animal industries use some type of identification system for animal identification, but these systems are not consistent from state to state. In the event of a disease outbreak, the process of tracing an animal's movements using these forms of identification can be a time-consuming, especially if the animal has moved across state lines.

The ability to find potentially sick or exposed animals early in a disease outbreak is essential to controlling the outbreak. The NAIS may benefit producers in other areas as well, including providing additional marketing opportunities. The NAIS will help uphold the reputation of the United States as having healthy animals. The adoption of this system insures the health of the national herd. Producers benefit from the additional information obtained through the NAIS to improve production. The NAIS program may help strengthen the international trade.

The first step in the NAIS process is to identify and register premises that house animals. Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) are necessary for any location involved in livestock commerce or the movement of animals or poultry. Allied agricultural operations and non-producer participants can also be assigned PINs. The Premises Identification process begins with the completion of a Premises Identification Number Application.

After the producer has received a Premises Identification Number (PIN) they can then move on to the next step. USDA requires the following pieces of information about registered premises: premises identification number; the name of the entity; appropriate contact person; street address/city/state/zip code; contact phone number, operation type; and the date the premises number was activated, the date the premises number was deactivated, and the reason for deactivation. A single PIN will be used for each location.

The Premise ID system assigns a nationally unique seven digit code to all participants in NAIS. The premise code is for producers as well as non-producers such as markets, veterinarians, service providers and tag distributors. The state animal health official maintains a database of information on a U.S. Department of Agriculture server system.

Responsibilities of the USDA

The USDA will provide the Premises Allocator Program, the National Premises Repository, and the National Animal Identification Database. The Premises Allocator Program will assign unique premises numbers to an address or legal land description through their website. The four key pieces of information that will be stored in the national animal records repository include the animal identification number (AIN) or group/lot identification number (GIN); premises identification number (PIN), date of the event, and event type (i.e. movement in, movement out, sighting of an animal at a location, termination, etc.) The plan would affect cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, cervids (deer and elk, equine, poultry, game birds, aquaculture, camelids (llamas, alpacas, etc.), ratites (ostriches, emus, etc.)

Premise/Farm Identification

The system is being developed for all animals that will benefit from rapid tracebacks in the event of a disease concern. Working groups comprised of industry and government representatives are developing plans for cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, poultry, bison, deer, elk, llamas and alpacas. The (NAIS) will enhance U.S. efforts to respond to intentionally or unintentionally introduced animal disease outbreaks. USDA's long term goal is to establish a system that can identify all premises and animals that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery.

The first step in implementing the NAIS is identifying and registering premises that house animals. Such premise would include locations where livestock or poultry are managed, marketed or exhibited. Knowing where animals are located is the key to efficient, accurate, and cost effective epidemiologic investigations and disease-control efforts. USDA is developing the standards for collecting and reporting information, but industry will determine which type of identification method works best for each species. As premises are registered and animals or groups of animals are identified based on the standard protocols, USDA will begin collecting information about animal movements from one premise to another. With an efficient, effective animal tracking system in place, USDA will be able to perform tracebacks in case of an animal disease outbreak. Only Federal, State, and Tribal animal health authorities would have direct access to the national premises and animal identification repositories. They need this information to accomplish their job of safeguarding animal health.

In conclusion, the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a three-step nationwide initiative with the ultimate goal of allowing animal health officials to trace an animal's movement history within 48 hours in an emergency situation, such as a foot-and-mouth disease break. Organizations are working with USDA to build a program that works with livestock and poultry.

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov>

Louisiana

Louisiana is building upon previous animal identification programs involving animal industry-state-federal partnerships. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is committed to this program by using state of the art national and international standards with the best available and practical technologies. The state wants to make it as easy as possible for Louisiana's agricultural industry—whether plants or animals. The state asks farmers voluntarily to provide data on names, physical addresses, mailing address and the type of animals raised. These standards apply to all animals across the nation regardless of their intended use as seedstock, commercial, pets or other personal uses.

Costs associated with the Louisiana premise identification program will be substantial. Significant state and federal costs will be incurred in overseeing, maintaining, updating, and improving necessary infrastructure. Efforts will be required to seek federal and state financial support for this integral component of safeguarding animal health in protecting American animal agriculture.

<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us>

Iowa

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has been working with the United States Department of Agriculture on the formation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Registration also provides IDALS with essential contact information that can be accessed in case of an animal health emergency. Faster notification equals faster eradication and recovery from a disease. There is no cost to register a premise through the IDALS. To get a premise Identification Number a farmer may download the form from the webpage, or contact IDALS and one will be mailed. Once a form is received and the information entered into the database, the producer will receive a card with a unique premises identification number assigned by the USDA. The premises registration system will include information such as address, contact name, type of premises, and phone number of the contact person. Key pieces of information will be sent to the USDA to be available in the case of a disease.

A premise is any location in which agricultural animals are raised, held, or boarded. A catch-all definition is not always possible for a premises because of different production systems and methods. In some cases, one smaller operation may need multiple PINs while a larger one may only need one. Operations requiring multiple PINs will be handled on a case by case basis.

Currently, the Premises Registration System is voluntary. Mandatory registration is being contemplated in the near future. Registering now ensures timely processing and receipt of the PIN.

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us>

Kentucky

Premise ID Program Under Way By Laura Skillman

PRINCETON, Ky. (May 11, 2005) – A program that traces the location of animals throughout the state is providing a risk management tool to livestock producers. The program is called premise identification. It's the first step toward development of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which will provide efficient isolation of animal operations and limit the possibility of an entire industry becoming involved in a disease incident.

State veterinarians in all but about six states are currently registering premise IDs. It is nothing more than a farm number. People are being asked to register so they can begin to get their systems in order to make sure they have unique numbers on farms, markets and locations that house livestock.

In the past, different numbers were used for different tracking systems, such as those for brucellosis or tuberculosis. This resulted in duplicate numbers across state lines, so those numbers could not be used. It will be best to have one number so when you deal with the USDA relative to livestock you have one number. It should not matter if the farmer has chicken houses, cattle, or hogs, the farm will receive only one number. It will speed up the process of tracking a disease.

Information requested on the identification form is farm name, contact name, address, phone number, physical address of location and species of animals reported. The identification number is assigned to a location not an individual or business. If a farm is sold, the number goes with it. Each property should be registered separately. More than one producer may have animals at the same location but they will use the same premise number. The program is not about who owns the animals, it is about where they are. The program is voluntary and, unless mandated by state or federal government, producers are not required to tag an animal. The market already is asking that animals be tagged. It is up to the producer to decide whether to respond to the market but tagging alone is not enough. The tags need to be tied to the premise identification in order for the system to work. This can be done through a reputable service provider that is cooperating with the state animal health official such as the Kentucky Beef Network or Southeastern Livestock Network. A producer can choose to report other information for marketing purposes, but this information is not a part of the governmental side of the animal identification system.

Sign up information may be available at a county office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service or through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Web site. The form is to be mailed to the Kentucky State Veterinarian and a premise number will be returned by e-mail or mail.

<http://www.ca.uky.edu>

Wyoming

To attain the 48-hour trace back objective, the movement of animals will be recorded into an efficient database. Essential information required for an effective infrastructure for this identification program at both the federal and state level will include the following:

- A uniform premises identification system
- A uniform numbering system for individual animals
- A uniform numbering system for a group of animals
- A uniform numbering system for non-producing participants

Premise identification will be required. The veterinarian's office is responsible in determining and defining premises. The definition of premises encompass farms, ranches, feed yards, auction barns, livestock exhibitions and fair sites. Each entity that participates in animal production or commerce will be designated a seven-character premises identification number. The premises identification allows officials the capabilities of tracking an animal's location. The premises identification system retains information on the animal's or group/lot unit of animals' date of birth or origins and movement. This information will continue to be reported throughout the animal's lifespan with the use of the premises identification number. Premises ID will began by July 2005 on a voluntary basis.

This identification information will then be stored in a central database, called the National Premises Repository, which will be linked with each state's premises databases. The state will be responsible for collecting, verifying, and maintaining all the information uploaded into the National Premises Repository. The state will retain these records for 20 years. Identification devices like radio frequency ear tags will be utilized to ensure accuracy and easy detection. Both the government and industry will share the cost of these necessary identification elements

In Wyoming this is the Wyoming Livestock Board. The Wyoming premises database is currently being developed through software obtained from the cooperative agreement with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and should be functional after June 1st 2005. The state will be responsible in linking this database to the National Premises Repository, or central database. The National Premises Allocator will issue a unique premises number for those premises in the state.

NAIS will be phased in by implementing three stages. In the first phase, the premises identification program will be implemented by July 2005. Initially, recording premises will be voluntary until January 2008. Premises applications will be available to vet clinics, county extension offices, sales barns, and brand inspectors; premises numbers will be assigned at assembly points, markets, and processing plants. Phase two will be the individual animal and group/lots identification. In phase three, the tracking markets and processing plants will begin tracing animals.

The owner of the premises must register their locations and keep their information current with the state. The premise's information will be confidential and will only be accessible to authorized federal, state, and tribal animal health and public health officials. Locations that produce a variety of species will have one unique premises identification number. Producers that have more than one noncontiguous parcel of land will be allowed to have additional premises. Locations that are sold intact will retain the same premises number. New and revised premises information will be uploaded to the National Premises Repository from the state database. The National Premises Repository is considered the "master database" that provides validation of premises.

Premises owners may choose to provide additional information to improve response time in the case of disease. This information will include anything from an address, phone number, GPS coordinates, contact information, etc. This information will allow animal health officials to quickly contact the person associated with the premises being investigated during a trace back situation. The state will also report animal interstate movement to the National Identification Database.

Non-Producer Participant Numbers

Participants in the production system will submit information pertaining to animal and premises identification to the state. A non-producer participant is considered to be market intermediaries, slaughter plants, vet clinics, etc. The data provided from the non-producer will be associated with their non-producer participant number. The USDA will be in charge of allocating the unique non-producer participant numbers to each entity. Entities that may be considered non-producer participants include USAIN (US Identification Numbering System) tag distributors, animal health officials (accredited veterinarians), the diagnostic laboratories, etc. The non-producer participant number will be a seven character ID number.

Animal Identification

Two types of animal identification programs will characterize the program: individual animal identification and group/lot identification. The individual animal identification will be used for tracing animals that commingle or inter-mix with animals outside the production system of origin. Group/lot identification will identify groups of animals that are formed from the same production system. Tracking of group/lot identification is achieved through recording group movements. Once a group/lot animal associates or commingles with animals outside its production system, it is required to obtain a unique individual animal identification. Units of animals that remain within the same herd or group from birth are given group/lot identification numbers while animals that will mix with others will obtain an animal identification number.

Individual Animal Identification Numbers (AIN)

Individual animal identification is key to a national animal ID system. This numbering system will link a fifteen-digit alphanumeric individual animal identification number with the USDA's uniform national code and the premises identification. Eventually, the use of the animal identification number will be mandatory.

Group/Lot Identification Numbers (GIN)

When a production system manages a group of animals that remain together, group/lot identification may be used. In contrast to individual identification, production records will be used to track the movement of the animals. Production records will contain the following information: the date the group was created, number of head, premise of origin removal date and type (sale, transfers, loss and death), destination premises, and inventory reconciliation. These records will be kept at the local level for two years after the group “retires” or ends.

The national central database will require a unique group/lot identification number to be associated with the group of animals. To acquire group/lot identification, the producer must prove to animal health officials that group/lot identification will allow for a 48-hour trace back. The group/lot identification method will be available to most species.

The group/lot identification number will be composed of thirteen characters including the National Premises Identification number for the location of the group and a six-digit number representing the date the group was formed. Requirements for reporting the movements of animals under the group/lot identification in the national animal tracking information repository has not been established.

Identification Devices

Individual animal identification requires that an appropriate device that features an identification number or an electronically encoded numbered chip be attached to the animal. The official US logo must be visible on the device. Other information or numbers on the device used by the producer or state will be allowed as long as it doesn't inhibit the readability of the official US logo and number.

RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Tags

The RFID tags under the provisions of International Standards Organization (ISO), are the preference identification devices of the USAIP; Wyoming will be utilizing these devices in the animal identification programs. DNA, retinal identification, and other biometric identification methods will replace or supplement the RFID tagging method.

To ensure the visibility and attachment of the tag, USAIP is considering making the official RFID tag a distinct color. Official RFID ear tags will be distributed among qualified persons and organizations. Unauthorized selling and providing of an official tag is prohibited. A committee will be in charge of accrediting tags. Tag accreditation will be established upon “species appropriate evaluations” and will be consistent with the success of tag laboratory and field testing. Some of the performance standards for the tags already set forth by the USAIP include:

- Tags will be tamper proof. Tampering with tag numbers is against federal law.
- Official numbers encoded in each transponder must not be changed.
- Tags shouldn't chemically contaminate meat, damage the animal's hide, or have an adverse impact on the animal's health.

- Physical deterioration to the tag shouldn't become apparent.
- Tag loss shouldn't exceed more than 1% per year.
- Numbers are to remain readable.
- Height of the numbers is 5 mm.
- Only approved devices for the National Identification System will use the US logo.

Application of the tag will be the responsibility of the animal's owner. The USAIP encourages the use of a second tag in conjunction with the official RFID tag. In the event that the official tag is lost, the second tag could be used as reference.

<http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

West Virginia

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture adopted NAIS. The West Virginia Department of Agriculture assists in identification of farms in West Virginia. The intent of the program is to identify cattle, then other livestock identification will follow. The goal of the National Identification System is to trace back animals and premises/farms that have had contact with a disease within 48 hours of discovery.

To achieve this goal the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is trying to identify the farms in West Virginia by asking producers of livestock to fill out a premise/farm identification form with their name, mailing address, physical address, phone number, premise type, business type, and operation type to obtain a farm identification number.

<http://www.wvagriculture.org>

Illinois

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) is NAIS. The NAIS is comprised of three major steps: premises registration, animal identification and animal tracking. Premises Registration is the foundation for a national animal ID trace back system. Registering premises does not obligate participation in the animal ID phase of the plan.

Registering premises does not increase liability. Also, information is kept private. The producer holds control of the information by establishing a user name and password.

<http://www.agr.state.il.us>

Indiana

A mandatory premise ID program is in place. Helping producers protect Indiana's animal agriculture industry is a top priority for the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH). NAIS supplies invaluable information resources to help BOAH continue providing protection to

the livestock industry. Beginning Sept. 1, 2006 , all sites in Indiana associated with the sale, purchase or exhibition of livestock must have a registered premise ID number. Implementing premise ID will allow for 48-hour traceback.

The first step in developing the comprehensive national system is to assign a unique number—a premise ID number, or “premID”—to every location where animals are born, housed, marketed or exhibited. In Indiana, every animal site that has a unique 911 or postal address should have its own premise ID number. The premID to be like the animal’s address; although multiple animals with different owners may reside at the same location, they will all share the same premise ID. The premise number is linked to a physical piece of property and will remain as such, regardless of ownership of the animals.

Registration is free, fairly simple, and the information required is minimal. Most registration information can be found in a phone book—contact name(s), addresses and phone number, along with a description of the species held. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health, or a partnering organization, can register sites.

The premise identification program, which is mandatory for all sites associated with the purchase, sale, or exhibition of livestock in the state of Indiana beginning in September 2006, includes the registration of cattle/bison, cervids, swine, sheep and goats. Poultry and aquaculture are also part of Indiana ’s plan. Although not mandatory, equine and camelids may be registered voluntarily under the state plan.

The second and third portions of NAIS, animal ID and animal and product tracking, cannot be successful without the completion of the premise ID step. Without accurate identification of a producer’s premises, effective trace back will be impossible.

Step two in NAIS involves animal identification. Under NAIS, animal identification is not required. Indiana law requires identification of livestock for specific purposes; those state rules must still be followed regardless of NAIS requirements.

Under NAIS, animals will be identified either individually with an identification number or with a group/lot identification number. Species working groups, comprised of industry and government representatives, are making recommendations about which types of technology will work best with their animals. The cattle identification working group has suggested external radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags. Other identification technologies will be determined as species working groups provide their recommendations. USDA anticipates allocating individual animal identification numbers to manufacturers. The tag manufacturers will encode those numbers into tags and distribute them to producers. USDA will then receive an electronic record of where each tag was sent.

Once premises are registered and animals or groups of animals are identified, the system will begin collecting information about animal movements from one premise to another—this is the animal tracking component of NAIS. The goal of NAIS is to allow animal health officials to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours of a diagnosis. NAIS will limit the scope of disease outbreaks.

In Indiana, every animal site with a unique 911 or postal address must have its own premise ID number beginning in September 2006. Different numbers should be issued for sites not contiguous with an operation. Land separated by no more than a county road may be considered contiguous. Facilities for animals at stages of production (for example, calves, heifers, milking cows, etc.) may be one premise. Only one number is needed when multiple species are on the same premise. The premise is linked to a physical piece of property and will remain as such.

<http://www.in.gov>

Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Identification Program (MAIP)

The Missouri Animal ID Program accepts voluntary registration of premises. Through premises registration, a unique identification number is assigned to locations where animals are born, managed, or exhibited. Information gathered through registration is used for animal health purposes. Voluntary premises identification numbers can be obtained by completing the registration process online.

<http://www.mda.mo.gov>

Wisconsin

A mandatory premise ID program is in place.

Vermont

Legislature has not approved of the program, causing the states' departments of agriculture to hold off on implementation.

Maine

Legislature has not approved of the program, causing the states' departments of agriculture to hold off on implementation.

Additional news:

Producers Ask Packers, Swine Registries To Require Premises ID

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 7, 2007 –The National Pork Producers Council will ask the marketplace to require premises ID numbers. Delegates at NPPC's business meeting in Anaheim, Calif., March 3 approved a resolution calling on packers to require premises ID numbers. Delegates also passed a resolution stating that producers continue to support a mandatory national ID system.

NPPC and the National Pork Board in 2005 formed a task force to implement a national swine ID system based on the one the pork industry has had since 1988. That system was used to

successfully eradicate pseudorabies. The task force has called for mandatory premises registration, which includes owner and location data, by Dec. 31, 2007, and mandatory animal IDs for all relevant species by Dec. 31, 2008. More than 50 percent of pork producers nationwide already have registered their premises. "Making premises registration part of the marketing and breed registry processes," said NPPC President Jill Appell, a pork producer from Altona, Ill., "will ensure that we meet our goal of having this important animal-health tool functional by the end of 2008."

NPPC is the global voice of the U.S. pork industry, fighting for reasonable legislation and regulations, developing new markets and protecting the livelihoods of America's pork producers. For more information, visit NPPC's Web site at www.nppc.org.

Carrots not sticks by Joe Roybal editor Feb 1, 2007 12:00 PM

USDA's December announcement about the voluntary status — on the federal level at least — of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) didn't signal the death of the program, Bruce Knight, USDA's secretary for marketing, tells BEEF. The program is alive and thriving, with the first of its goals — that of having 25% of all livestock premises in the U.S. registered in January 2007 — steaming towards its target.

The announcement was an admission that the building of a national program for ID and traceback in the event of an animal emergency could progress quickly if livestock producers were drawn to it. The draw is the opportunity to partake in the premiums the market is offering practitioners of source- and age-verification, not to mention the payoff in genetic progress. Premiums for age-verified cattle via private-industry programs have run \$3-\$4/cwt. on feeders and \$2-\$3/cwt. on fed cattle.

USDA estimates there are 1,433,582 livestock premises in the U.S., and 343,186 registered as of Jan. 4. With a few weeks remaining in January, Knight remained confident he could deliver to USDA Secretary Mike Johanns the registration goal. "The debate of mandatory vs. voluntary that was raging (regarding NAIS) when I stepped into this job was so wrapping everyone around the axle that no one was getting to the practical discussion that absolutely had to occur to make animal ID workable, practical and integrated with our existing herd health — and our existing commerce," Knight says.

The original set of benchmarks included having every animal identified by January 2008, and the movements of all animals tracked by January 2009. Those goals haven't been abandoned. "I haven't moved away from those objectives as far as having NAIS up and operational, but I tend to refer to it as a critical mass of participation by 2009," Knight says. "Even under a mandatory system, you wouldn't get 100% premises registration, so we're shooting for that critical mass, and I'm still working with the professionals in the agency to get a feel for what that would be by species.

The agency is working hard to find the synergies between animal ID and the marketplace, between NAIS and other herd health programs. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service personnel are studying the potential for a radio-frequency and NAIS-compatible bangs tag.

Knight's office is also meeting with representatives of brand states to determine how brand rolls can work together in a logical synergy with animal ID.

“I just can't emphasize enough that NAIS is at the producer's choice. We have separated the decision of premises registration from the next step of participation. I want to earn producers' trust, and it's up to them to move to the next step of participation to eventually putting individual animal ID or lot ID in place on their operation.”

<http://beef-mag.com>