

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)— A User Guide and Additional Information Resources

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NAIS is a State-Federal-Industry partnership.
Participation in NAIS is voluntary at the Federal level.



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Preface

The purpose of this comprehensive document is to provide the public with basic information about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)—a voluntary program at the Federal level¹ that will help producers protect the health of their animals and their investment in the case of an animal disease event.

Part I of the document provides a brief overview to familiarize producers with NAIS, the need for this voluntary program, its advantages and benefits, and other helpful information concerning its cooperative development and implementation. In Parts II through IV of the document, each of NAIS' components are discussed in greater detail and operational-level information—meaning “*how to*” information—and resources are provided.

This document provides guidance to producers² and owners of animals included in the NAIS, as well as other sectors involved in the animal agricultural industry, on how to participate in the NAIS if they so choose, and how participation would benefit them.

At the end of this comprehensive document, we have also included additional documents for reference and a glossary of terms that producers may encounter in reading this and other documents concerning NAIS.

The December 2007 User Guide, which is an update to the November 2006 draft, explains how producers may participate in NAIS today. This document, along with the December 2007 Business Plan for Advancing Animal Disease Traceability and the October 2007 Program Standards and Technical Reference document, replaces previously published NAIS documents, including the 2005 Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Program Standards and the 2006 Implementation Strategies. Those previous documents provided the opportunity for the public to comment and offer feedback on NAIS as USDA worked through many issues with industry and the States and Tribes. NAIS will continue to evolve as details are addressed through ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders.

¹ NAIS is voluntary at the Federal level. U.S. animal health is protected by existing Federal and State regulations for disease surveillance, control, eradication, and response. While NAIS is a national system, it does not alter any regulations in the *Code of Federal Regulations* or any regulations that exist at the State level. Rather, NAIS enhances ongoing animal health protection efforts by offering national standards and increasing the level of participation beyond what is already required in existing disease programs. The primary authority for these existing Federal and State regulations, as well as for NAIS, is the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.).

² In this guide, the term “producer” is used to simplify the reference to all individuals engaged in the ownership, management or marketing of livestock included in NAIS. While owners and or managers of certain species may not typically be referred to as a “producer,” owners of horses for example, these individuals are to be interpreted as being included in this broad use of “producer” in the context of the NAIS User Guide.

NAIS: At a Glance

What is NAIS?

Simply put, NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States. NAIS, achieved through State-Federal-Industry partnerships, is beneficial because it helps us protect U.S. livestock and poultry from disease spread, maintain consumer confidence in our food supply, and retain access to domestic and foreign markets.

USDA does not require participation in NAIS.³ NAIS can help producers protect the health and marketability of their animals—but the choice to participate is theirs.

Animal health officials across the country agree that premises registration, the foundation of NAIS, is a necessary first step to achieving these goals. Premises information ensures that producers will be notified quickly when a disease event might impact their area or the species of animals they have. In an animal health emergency, we cannot help producers protect their animals if we do not know they are there. By voluntarily registering their premises and providing contact information, producers will ensure that they receive the information they need—when they need it most—to protect their animals and their investment. In an emergency, animal health officials will be able to quickly locate at-risk animals and take precise actions to address the situation, minimize hardships, and speed disease eradication efforts as much as possible.

Voluntary NAIS also encompasses animal identification and animal movement tracing systems. These components are currently being refined by NAIS' industry and private sector partners. While the focus today is on premises registration, animal owners should know that the other components of NAIS are additional options for them when they're ready to make decisions about what level of participation best suits their needs.

USDA is required by law to protect individuals' private information. Regardless of the level of participation animal owners choose, the voluntary NAIS is limited in terms of the type and quantity of information maintained by the Federal Government. At the Federal level, the system will hold and maintain minimal premises information needed to enable effective traceback or notification in disease situations.⁴ USDA will not maintain animal location or movement information collected for NAIS. If that information is needed to respond to an animal health event, data will be requested from the private and State databases where it is held. Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from public disclosure.

³ There is no Federal requirement for producers to participate in, or use, any aspect of NAIS. For the administration of Federal disease programs, USDA is using the NAIS data elements (formats for premises location identifiers and animal identification numbers) in order to standardize data. Each location involved in a disease program or in a disease investigation or emergency response will be issued a premises identification number, if one has not previously been assigned. Producers may elect to use NAIS compliant identification devices to meet existing regulations for animal identification. Federal disease programs include: brucellosis in cattle, bison, and swine; tuberculosis in cattle and cervids; scrapie in sheep and goats; and, pseudorabies in swine. Data in NAIS formats will be stored in NAIS databases, which are part of the Veterinary Services animal health information system.

⁴ States and Tribes are directly responsible for premises registration and manage and hold premises registration information at the State level. Limited information about premises is also available at the Federal level in order to enable effective traceback or notification in disease situations, however, the Federal Government does not maintain information about species, number of animals, etc., and primarily relies on the States/Tribes to oversee this component and data. See page 17 for further details.

Costs of Participating in NAIS

Premises registration is free in all States and participating Tribes. NAIS participants will have the opportunity to choose which animal identification devices and which animal tracking database they wish to use, if they elect to report animal movements. (Participants should check with their respective State for the various options.) Participants will pay the cost of the animal identification devices and any fees that may be associated with participating in an animal tracking database. The cost of animal identification methods will vary among species and will also depend on the device chosen by the animal owner, as well as whether the owner or a veterinarian applies the device. The cost will also be determined by the services that may be packaged with the device.

The animal tracking databases are provided by industry organizations and State entities. Costs associated with the databases may vary depending on the services the producer/owner elects to use. Competition among these databases will help keep costs down.

Basic Steps for Participating in NAIS

Animal owners who are interested in taking part in the voluntary NAIS may participate in premises registration only, premises registration and animal identification, or all three components. The following information provides a brief explanation of how to participate in NAIS.

Step 1: Register your premises to obtain a Premises Identification Number.

To register your premises, contact your State (e.g., State Veterinarian office) or appropriate Tribal authority. Contact information for each State and Tribe is provided in the Appendix of this document. Premises registration forms are available on each State's department of agriculture Web site; participants may opt to register their premises online or by mailing or faxing the forms to their State or Tribal NAIS contact. Part II (Premises Registration), located on pages 14-20, includes detailed information regarding the premises registration process.

Step 2: Identify your animals.

After you have registered your premises, you may participate in the animal identification component of voluntary NAIS. Animals of the same species that typically move through the production chain as a group can be identified by a group/lot identification number (GIN), rather than by individual numbers. The GIN is determined by the animal owner using the premises identification number and the date the group was assembled. For more information about assigning animals a group/lot identification number, NAIS participants should refer to page 23 of Part III (Animal Identification).

Animals that move through commerce individually can be identified with a USDA-recognized animal identification number (AIN) tag or device. NAIS participants interested in identifying their animals individually should refer to pages 27-28 for the basic steps and requirements involved in obtaining and applying AIN tags and devices to their animals. Owners should contact authorized AIN manufacturers for the AIN device managers in their area. A list of authorized AIN devices and AIN manufacturers is available through the AIN Management System Information Web page (http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_id/ain_mngt_sys.shtml). Identification devices may be applied at the convenience of the producer, but

prior to the point at which the animals leave their premises and/or commingle with animals from other premises. In the future, tagging sites or services may be provided by industry organizations, if producer demand dictates the need. We recommend that livestock owners first check with their States to find out what animal identification options and requirements may already be in place at that level.

Step 3: Choose an Animal Tracking Database (ATD) for reporting the movement of certain individual animal or group/lot movements.

After NAIS participants have registered their premises and identified their animals either individually or by group/lot, they may report animal records to an ATD of their choice. USDA recognizes that every animal movement does not need to be recorded or reported. To ensure that the system is practical and workable for NAIS participants, only those movements that pose a greater risk of disease transmission and with the greatest potential economic impact will be the focus of tracing efforts. A number of factors—the number of animals, their source(s), health status/certification, and nature and location of the event—influence disease risk. For a list of recommendations regarding reportable animal movements, please see page 35. Participants should contact State or local animal health officials if they are uncertain about the need to report an animal movement.

Private industry groups and States operate and maintain the ATDs; NAIS participants can choose the ATD they wish to use for reporting animal movements. USDA operates a portal or communication system that will enable animal health officials to submit requests for animal location and movement information to the ATDs in the event of a disease occurrence. A list of NAIS State and private databases that have an approved cooperative agreement with USDA is available on USDA/APHIS' Animal Identification Web site at http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_track/index.shtml.

For further information on how you can take part in this important initiative, please review the December 2007 User Guide and visit the USDA/APHIS Animal Identification Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. You may also call the USDA-NAIS Staff at (301) 734-0799 to request copies of NAIS documents.

Part I: Overview of NAIS

This part of the comprehensive document discusses:

- Introduction to NAIS
- Why NAIS?
- Voluntary Participation
- NAIS Components and How They Work Together
- The Benefits of Voluntary Participation
- The Concept Behind NAIS
- Estimated Costs Associated with NAIS
- Economic Benefit of NAIS
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Outstanding Issues and the Role of the Species Working Groups

Introduction to NAIS

NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States.

When producers consider participating in NAIS, there are three key points to remember in understanding how this program works:

1. Participation, while highly encouraged and of vital importance to control the spread of animal disease, is **voluntary** at the Federal level. There is no Federal requirement for producers to participate in, or use, any aspect of NAIS.
2. Federal law **protects** individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure. USDA will continue using its authority to protect individuals' private information and confidential business information provided by NAIS participants.
3. NAIS is a State-Federal-industry **partnership** that continues to evolve to meet producer demands. NAIS works best if there is active involvement and feedback from the States, industry, and producers.

Why NAIS?

When an animal disease event occurs, producers and animal health officials must be able to act quickly to prevent disease spread to surrounding premises, protect valuable animals against infection, and preserve producers' business and economic interests. NAIS is a valuable animal disease control tool that helps accomplish these goals. It provides timely, accurate information in the case of a disease event, allowing producers and animal health officials to coordinate their efforts and respond as quickly, efficiently, and effectively as possible.

There are a number of reasons for producers to participate in NAIS. One of the most important reasons is to better protect animal health. People who own or work with animals, or depend on them for income, understand how absolutely important this is—for themselves, their neighbors, and their surrounding communities. Producers who choose to participate in NAIS become part of a national animal disease response network, which ensures that they will receive timely information and assistance to protect their animals against disease threats. This gives producers more control over the health of their animals in a disease situation and facilitates rapid response. Rapid response reduces the hardships caused by disease spread and eases the economic strain on affected communities.

NAIS will assist first responders and State and Federal officials in conducting disease investigations. When an outbreak occurs, three essential questions must be answered as quickly as possible— “Where has the infected animal been?”; “What other animals have been exposed?”; and, “What additional premises and animals are at risk of exposure?” The information included in NAIS will answer these questions, which are critical in determining the size and scope of a disease outbreak. The more quickly these answers can be found, the less the disease will spread, and the less impact the outbreak will have on producers and the economy.

Participating in NAIS also protects market access and gives producers a competitive advantage in domestic and international trade. Prices are dictated by the overall demand for U.S. products. To maintain and protect prices for domestic commodities, it is crucial for international markets to stay open. In a disease situation, local and State officials can use NAIS information to quickly define which regions of our country are, and are not, affected by an outbreak—keeping markets open for unaffected producers and preventing unnecessary movement restrictions.

Participating producers can also use the NAIS system for industry-based programs, including marketing opportunities. For example, a producer who participates in the voluntary animal identification and animal tracing components of NAIS may use the same methods of identification and information reporting to support source and/or age verification programs—a strategic advantage in a highly competitive market. The greater the level of participation in NAIS, the greater the potential for producers to expand their marketing opportunities at home and abroad.

It is important to understand that NAIS is *not* a “real-time” tracking system for animals. Government agencies will not have constant, continuous, or routine access to the locations of animals in NAIS. Additionally, NAIS is not a food safety protection system. The United States already has a comprehensive system of food safety policies, testing, and inspection requirements in place to ensure the safety of our products.

Simply put, the NAIS is an *information system* that helps provide animal health officials and producers with timely information in a disease situation, supports State and Federal disease response efforts, and enables the livestock and poultry industries to quickly respond to and minimize the health and economic effects of animal disease outbreaks.

The focus of NAIS is protecting animal health and minimizing the hardships associated with an animal disease incident or outbreak. With this in mind, the goal is to have a system that will:

- Enable industry partners and State and Federal animal health officials to respond rapidly and effectively to animal health emergencies such as foreign animal disease outbreaks or program diseases with potentially significant animal health, public health, economic, or social consequences;
- Support ongoing animal health safeguarding and disease detection and response capabilities in order to complete current eradication programs;
- Protect U.S. exports and meet the growing international market demand for systems that provide timely animal identification capabilities, thus expanding international trade opportunities; and,
- Protect domestic markets and consumer confidence, thus increasing overall consumer demand that benefits all producers.

NAIS brings many positive benefits to animal agriculture. It is a modern, streamlined national animal identification system that ensures that producers, industry representatives, and animal health officials are prepared to address urgent animal health concerns—as quickly and effectively as possible. And because NAIS provides a standardized method of identification that is compliant with, or that works in harmony with, industry-based programs, producers may also use the system to take advantage of other valuable opportunities.

Protecting the health of livestock and poultry supports consumer confidence in a secure and safe food supply and protects producers' access to markets at home and abroad. Producers already take so many measures to safeguard the health of their animals, which ultimately protects their industries and contributes to a safe and wholesome food supply. By choosing to participate in NAIS, producers demonstrate their total commitment to doing everything they can to protect their animals, their investment, and their neighbors.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in NAIS is voluntary at the Federal level. Under our current authorities, USDA could make the NAIS mandatory, but we are choosing not to do so—again, participation in every component of NAIS is voluntary at the Federal level.⁵ The NAIS does not need to be mandatory to be effective; we believe the goals of the system can be achieved with a voluntary program. As producers become increasingly aware of the benefits of the NAIS and the level of voluntary participation grows, there will only be less need to make the program mandatory.

Producers who choose to participate in NAIS will find many positive benefits. They will be better informed to protect their premises and their livelihood. They will be better positioned to protect their market access and expand their marketing opportunities. And they will be better equipped to reduce the hardships caused by animal disease events in their communities.

NAIS participants will also find that the program's scope is limited in terms of the type and quantity of information maintained by the Federal government. Moreover, Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure.

NAIS is a State-Federal-industry partnership. The program works best if there is active involvement and feedback from the States, industry, and producers. As NAIS has evolved, we have put participant feedback to work to adjust the program and address their thoughts and concerns. We will continue working collaboratively to ensure that NAIS is easy to use and makes sense for everyone. The best way to know if the system is working is for producers to participate and provide input.

NAIS provides the opportunity for producers that are not part of a disease program to freely participate in national animal health safeguarding efforts. All individuals who are responsible for the care and management of livestock and/or poultry would benefit from and are encouraged to participate in the

⁵ There is no Federal requirement for producers to participate in, or use, any aspect of NAIS. For the administration of Federal disease programs, USDA is using the NAIS data elements (formats for premises location identifiers and animal identification numbers) in order to standardize data. Each location involved in a disease program or in a disease investigation or emergency response will be issued a premises identification number, if one has not previously been assigned. Producers may elect to use NAIS compliant identification devices to meet existing regulations for animal identification. Federal disease programs include: brucellosis in cattle, bison, and swine; tuberculosis in cattle and cervids; scrapie in sheep and goats; and, pseudorabies in swine. Data in NAIS formats will be stored in NAIS databases, which are part of the Veterinary Services animal health information system.

program. Specifically, these animals include cattle and bison; poultry; swine; sheep; goats; cervids (e.g., deer and elk); equines (e.g., horses, mules, donkeys, burros); and camelids (e.g., llamas and alpacas).

Household pets (e.g., cats and dogs) and animals not listed in the paragraph above are not included.

For producers who choose to participate in NAIS, the procedures they follow and level at which they participate will vary based on how they move animals to other premises and/or the extent to which their animals have contact with animals from other premises. (Further guidance on participation is provided throughout this document.)

NAIS Components and How They Work Together

NAIS consists of three components: premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracing. Each of these components continues to evolve as the program advances and as stakeholders provide feedback and recommendations on what is most practical and workable.

Premises registration is available now and is a valuable tool for any producer. Animal identification devices are currently available for most species. The animal tracing component, or the reporting of animal movements to State or private Animal Tracking Databases, is also available. Lists of approved animal identification devices and compliant Animal Tracking Databases are posted on the NAIS Web site (http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_track/index.shtml).

Producers may choose to participate only in premises registration, both premises registration and animal identification, or all three components. Voluntarily registering a premises does not automatically enroll a producer in the other components of NAIS. If producers choose to participate, NAIS will offer additional options for them when they are ready to make decisions about what combination of tools best suits their needs.

Individuals' private information and confidential business information is protected by Federal law.

Premises Registration

Premises registration, the foundation of NAIS, ensures that producers are notified quickly when a disease event might impact their area(s) or the species of animals they have. This is fundamental to containing animal diseases. In a disease situation, we cannot help producers protect their animals if we do not know they are there. Contact information provided during premises registration opens the lines of communication between producers and animal health officials—which is critical in preventing the spread of disease. By choosing to register their premises, producers ensure that they will receive the information they need—when they need it most—to protect their animals and their investment.

The first step is for producers to register their premises—a location where livestock or poultry are housed or kept—and provide their contact information. A unique premises identification number, or PIN, is then assigned and contact information recorded for that location. Premises information is securely held in databases maintained by the States and by USDA (see page 17 of this document for details on premises databases and USDA's minimum data standards). The goal is to establish a complete record of all locations, or premises, in the United

States that manage or hold livestock and/or poultry. Because NAIS is a voluntary program at the Federal level, this goal can only be reached if producers choose to register their premises.

Animal Identification

Based on their needs, producers may choose to participate in the second component of NAIS whenever they are ready. Animal identification is currently available for most species. The list of approved AIN devices for each species is posted on the NAIS Web site (<http://www.usda.gov/nais/>). Animal identification is a recommended option for animals that are moved from one premises⁶ to a location outside that operation where the risk of exposure to disease increases (e.g., auctions, feedlots, or fairs). In addition to being useful for protecting livestock and poultry and investigating diseases, animal identification will provide producers with an efficient, cost-effective tool for managing their animals.

The animal identification component involves assigning animals or groups of animals a unique identification number. The number is assigned at the animal's birthplace (premises of origin). Initially, the number may also be assigned to a location that is not the birthplace, if that location is where the animal is first identified. This information gives animal health officials a "starting point" for epidemiologic investigations when necessary. Distribution data on animal identification numbers/devices is held in USDA's animal identification number (AIN) management system.

Animals that enter commerce or commingle with animals at other premises (e.g., salesyards; State or national exhibits/shows) are the primary focus of NAIS. For certain classes and types of livestock (e.g., breeding heifers 6 months of age and over), official identification is required as part of interstate commerce regulations and for use on the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. (Note: Specific entry requirements vary from State to State). However, producers may elect to use the AIN devices within their operation to support herd management, marketing, and/or genetic programs at any time they desire.

Animal Tracing

The animal tracking databases that support the animal tracing component of NAIS are maintained by the States and private sector. Databases that meet the technical requirements are referred to as Compliant Animal Tracking Databases (ATD). Entities that wish to provide an ATD must sign an agreement to participate in the NAIS animal tracing component. Producers may report animal movement records to the ATD of their choice. Animal movements of interest include those that might pose a significant risk of disease transmission or, in the event of a disease detection, those that might have the greatest potential for spreading a disease. When linked with other information, animal tracing provides timely, accurate records that show where animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them. In addition to protecting livestock, a producer who chooses to participate in the animal identification and animal tracing components of NAIS may use the same methods of identification and information reporting to support source and/or age verification programs; this offers a strategic advantage in a highly competitive market.

⁶ This identification recommendation does not refer to animals that "get out," are taken on trail rides, or move from location to location within a single premises only, but rather to animals that are moved into commerce or into situations where they will commingle with other animals from many different premises.

Animal movement records will be securely held in ATDs owned, managed, and controlled by the private sector or the States. Animal health officials will only request animal movement information from these databases when there is a risk to animal health—such as an incident or outbreak of avian influenza, brucellosis, or tuberculosis.

How All Three Components Work Together

All three of the NAIS components are used together to provide a streamlined system of information in a disease situation. As participation in NAIS increases, this information will be used to determine the source of a disease outbreak and identify any animals and/or locations in the United States that may have been exposed to the disease or are at risk for spreading the disease.

Example: *A diseased animal is detected at a slaughterhouse. Authorized animal health officials enter the animal's identification number into the Animal Trace Processing System. The search will provide information on the Animal Identification Number from the private/State animal tracking database, along with animal health events recorded in systems maintained by USDA/APHIS for animal health purposes. Authorized animal health officials then have a listing of locations (premises identification numbers) associated with the animal. The search will also provide the other animal identification numbers that were present on the premises during the time the animal in question was there. This helps officials identify animals that may have been exposed to the disease. Animal health officials can then begin an epidemiologic investigation and take precise actions to address the situation, minimize its impact on producers, and speed disease eradication efforts as much as possible.*

While NAIS will not “prevent” the initial occurrence of a disease, it can reduce or prevent the spread of disease. Without this system of information, it can take days, weeks, and too often, months of manual searching to complete a disease investigation. Moreover, the inability to quickly address an emerging animal disease can have negative economic and domestic/international trade implications for the livestock industry and governments. Having NAIS—a streamlined, modern information system—in place will not only speed up disease response and eradication work but also ensure that these efforts are as comprehensive and accurate as possible. The faster and more precise the response, the sooner life gets back to normal for everyone.

By making the choice to participate in NAIS, producers have the power to protect their animals and their community against the impact of a disease situation. Premises registration is the first step and is available for all producers, market operators, feedlots, and other critical location points where livestock are managed. Likewise, animal identification and animal tracing are additional options for producers when they are ready to take the next step. NAIS can help producers protect their animals and their investment—but the choice to participate is theirs.

The Benefits of a Voluntary Program

Participation in NAIS is voluntary at the Federal level. There are no Federal penalties or enforcement mechanisms associated with the program. USDA believes that measures of this nature are simply unnecessary. NAIS brings a range of positive benefits to producers, and these advantages offer strong reasons for voluntary participation. Signing up for the first component of NAIS—premises registration—is a quick and easy process, and Federal law protects individuals' private and confidential business information from disclosure.

Everyone who lives off of the land understands how important it is to protect the health of the animals, plants, and humans who share it. Producers also know that we must promote both domestic and foreign markets and remain competitive in trade. They also recognize our added responsibility to be vigilant against any attempt to tamper with our food supply. NAIS helps producers achieve all of these goals. For producers and others in the animal agriculture sector, NAIS will ensure that—in the case of a disease event—everyone can benefit from rapid response.

In a market-driven economy, the ability to locate and rapidly respond to a disease situation is key to protecting access to both domestic and international markets. A single report of disease can shut down consumer demand for U.S. products. With NAIS, animal health officials will be able to use premises information to quickly define which regions of our country are, and are not, affected by an outbreak—keeping markets open for unaffected producers and preventing unnecessary movement restrictions. Prices at home are dictated by the overall demand for U.S. products. Therefore, to maintain and protect prices for domestic commodities, it is crucial for international markets to stay open.

Rapid disease response reduces the number of producers impacted by an outbreak. This, in turn, reduces the hardships associated with an outbreak—the loss of irreplaceable breeding stock and bloodlines, the animal distress and loss resulting from the disease itself and the eradication effort, as well as the labor and time involved with this work. By facilitating rapid disease response, NAIS also helps to protect the larger community from the impact of a disease situation. Rapid disease response reduces the strain on social programs, the environmental impact, and the loss of jobs and tourism in affected communities.

Market demands—such as product and source verification, etc.—are increasing in importance and are another important reason for producers to participate in NAIS. A number of other countries are already using animal identification to give their exports a competitive edge. NAIS allows American producers to share that advantage. The greater the level of participation in NAIS, the greater the potential to expand marketing opportunities—which is of merit to the entire industry.

In this regard, USDA believes participation in the main components of NAIS can occur as a result of standard business practices. For example, in order for producers to obtain official identification devices, they first need to register for a premises identification number. Accordingly, the success of the premises registration component would be achieved through the participation of producers in longstanding disease management programs and compliance with interstate movement regulations.

Every producer can find good reason to participate in NAIS. Premises registration is a valuable tool for producers and is independent of the other NAIS components. Signing up for premises registration in no way obligates a producer to participate in the other parts of the program. Producers can register their premises today and decide later whether to participate in the rest of the program. Whatever decision they make, NAIS will provide additional options for producers when they are ready to make decisions about what combination of tools best suits their needs.

The Concept Behind NAIS

Animal identification is not a new idea. Federal and State animal health programs—such as cooperative eradication programs for brucellosis and scrapie—include an animal identification component, and certain classes of livestock must be officially identified before entering interstate commerce. In addition, under current laws and rules, some animals must be identified before they can compete in shows or races.

There are already multiple identification systems in place that exist for various purposes. (For more information about how existing animal health identification systems fit into the NAIS, please see page 26) The critical difference with NAIS is the national scope, uniformity, and compatibility of the system across many animal species. But, the basic components of NAIS—identifying premises and animals—are not any different from the approaches Federal and State officials have taken for centuries through animal disease programs to maintain the health of livestock and poultry in the United States.

When diseases such as bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis were widespread in this country, animals were identified through disease eradication and control activities. Animals were identified with a unique number every time they were tested or vaccinated for a disease for which there was a program. During the height of these eradication programs, a large percentage of the U.S. livestock population was identified. Now, with the successful eradication of many diseases, the need for and level of vaccination and testing is low—as is the percentage of uniquely identified animals and premises in the United States. With this void of information, the ability to quickly find, control, and eradicate disease can be hindered.

Today, new challenges in the industry pose new risks. In commerce and the production chain, animals move from place to place and are in close contact before moving yet again. Contagious diseases can spread quickly and across great distances. Many States have information systems in place to locate at-risk animals and premises during an outbreak. But these systems are not consistent or connected, which can slow the disease response should an infected animal cross State lines—just when time counts most.

The voluntary NAIS program will help producers and animal health officials respond more quickly. It offers a modern, streamlined information system that fills the current void in animal identification and provides a vital tool for rapid disease response.

Estimated Costs Associated With NAIS

The NAIS is a voluntary, cooperative program, with all partners sharing the costs of the system. While State/Federal government and industry will bear the overall costs of developing and implementing NAIS, certain costs will fall to individual producers who choose to participate in certain components of the program.

Participation Costs

For each NAIS component, the anticipated costs for producers are briefly explained below:

- **Premises registration**
Premises registration is free in all States and participating Tribes.
- **Animal identification**

The cost will vary among species and the method of identification selected by the producer/owner. For example, animal identification number (AIN) devices for cattle may range from \$1 for visual identification tags to \$2-\$3 for devices with radio frequency identification. In other species where injectable radio frequency transponders can be used, the cost will vary depending on whether the owner implants the animal him/herself or has a veterinarian perform this work. Some sheep producers are using injectable transponders for approximately \$5 to \$7, while some horse owners are paying \$20 to have a horse implanted with an injectable transponder. If the owner has the expertise to implant the transponder him/herself, the cost of the transponder would be a few dollars. Again, the service associated or “packaged” with the device determines the cost that the provider of the device(s) charges.

- **Animal tracing**

The animal tracking databases are provided by industry organizations and the States. Because many of the animal tracking databases provide additional services to the producer/owner, cost may vary depending on what services the producer elects to use. The animal tracking databases are available from the private sector and the States. Costs are based on the types of services provided and are determined by the entity offering the ATD. The list of Compliant ATDs is available on the NAIS Web site (http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_track/index.shtml). USDA expects that competitive forces in the free market will help keep costs down.

Development/Implementation Costs

By the end of fiscal year (FY) 2007, USDA had made available just over \$118 million to develop and implement NAIS. Approximately 60 percent of these Federal funds are used through cooperative agreements with the States and Tribes to carry out NAIS activities at the local level. Because premises registration is the foundation of NAIS, the priority focus has been on implementing this component. Through these cooperative agreements, States and Tribes have additional resources to conduct education and outreach efforts and to administer the program.

USDA has also devoted significant resources to the development of the information system, including the National Premises Information Repository, the Web-based Standardized Premises Registration System (available free of charge to any State wishing to use it), the Animal Identification Number (AIN) Management System, and the Animal Trace Processing System, which supports the integration of multiple private and State animal tracking databases. In addition, USDA is providing the interfaces and information technology needed to implement NAIS. USDA has also funded selected field trial projects to explore innovative methods of animal identification and automated data collection technology.

The Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability provides more details on the resources invested to date to develop and implement NAIS.

Economic Benefit of NAIS

The threat of a foreign animal disease outbreak in the United States is real. Unfortunately, the timing and severity of an outbreak are impossible to predict.

It is, however, certain that—when it comes to a disease event—the time it takes to contain and control or eradicate the disease is the key factor that determines

the economic losses and other social harms associated with the situation. This is true both for producers and for animal health officials on the ground. In other words, time is money.

Rapid response has a number of economic benefits for producers. Any producer whose premises has been impacted by disease can attest to the serious losses and hardships that result—the loss of irreplaceable breeding stock/bloodlines, lower prices, lost business and income, animal distress and loss resulting from the disease and eradication effort, and the labor and time involved with this work. The more quickly and effectively a disease is contained, the less likely it is that the disease will spread to additional premises. This means all the difference for producers who are spared from the losses of having their premises exposed to disease. When fewer producers are affected by disease, the economic strain—decreased incomes, lost jobs, loss of animals and livelihoods—on entire communities is reduced. The faster the disease response, the faster an animal disease is isolated, the sooner life gets back to normal for everyone.

NAIS can also help maintain valuable domestic and foreign markets for producers, or even achieve new ones. Choosing to participate in NAIS helps producers preserve the marketability of their animals—whether their markets are at home or abroad. For example, if producers' animals are not linked to any affected premises or areas in the event of a disease outbreak, they could use NAIS animal identification numbers and movement records to demonstrate that their animals are disease-free.

Furthermore, prices are dictated by the overall demand for U.S. products. To maintain and protect prices for domestic commodities, it is crucial for international markets to stay open. In many foreign trade situations, having the ability to quickly define which regions of our country are—and are not—affected by an outbreak translates into real savings for U.S. livestock industries and producers. For example, in February 2004, when the first U.S. case of highly pathogenic avian influenza in more than 20 years occurred, more than 30 countries placed nationwide bans on U.S. poultry meat. NAIS offers the ability to generate detailed data showing the scope of a disease outbreak very quickly. This can be a valuable tool in helping to prevent widespread market closures.

Future competition in today's market-driven economy depends on producers' ability to maintain consumer confidence and protect the health of their animals. A modern disease response system helps reassure consumers and trading partners that we are doing everything we can to contain disease spread and protect animal health.

By facilitating rapid response, NAIS also brings economic benefits to the U.S. economy as a whole. For example, while our work to eradicate exotic Newcastle disease in 2002-2003 was ultimately successful, this year-long eradication effort cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$200 million. Given the high expense associated with such efforts, reducing the time it takes to eradicate a disease by several months—or even several weeks—can save millions of dollars in costs for everyone involved. When fewer animals and herds/flocks become infected, the number of quarantined and/or depopulated animals is reduced. This saves the producer both time and money, and government agencies spend significantly less in terms of eradication (i.e., surveillance, testing, euthanasia, carcass disposal, cleaning and disinfection) and manpower costs.

Rapidly locating potentially infected animals is an essential first step for the rapid control and eradication of a disease outbreak. The length of time it takes to gain control over the situation in the initial days of the outbreak often

dictates the overall success of the eradication effort and the ultimate extent of its economic impact. NAIS facilitates such activities by increasing the efficiency of the disease response.

Consider the following example:

If a highly infectious foreign animal disease (such as foot-and-mouth disease) is introduced along the border of two States, and there is average traffic among production sites in these and other neighboring States, the disease has the potential to spread to numerous States in a matter of days.

Without NAIS: On day one of the response, animal health officials are unable to identify many of the potentially infected premises. Epidemiologists spend the day interviewing herd owners, veterinarians, county agents, and others to gather names and addresses of potential producers in the area. Investigators may actually need to drive up and down rural roads to look for animals and identify premises. Depending on available resources, this process takes several days, weeks, or even months to complete. With each day that passes, the disease spreads further, and increased numbers of animals/herds are exposed. As the number of exposed animals/herds increases, more producers are directly impacted by the outbreak. The cost of eradication efforts increases by hundreds of thousands of dollars each day; producers' loss of animals and their livelihoods would grow exponentially with each passing day.

With NAIS: On day one of the response, animal health officials use the system's databases (with the initially infected premises as a starting point) to identify all potentially affected premises and exposed animals in the surrounding area. Epidemiologists are able to generate a map of this area and, within minutes, have a clear picture of the potential scope of the outbreak. That same day, they are able to contact the owners of the premises and begin taking steps to prevent the disease from spreading further. In addition, the successful integration of the private and State animal tracking databases provides information on animals that have moved from the infected zones. Again, for a highly contagious disease, this could involve several States. Being able to locate these premises is, likewise, imperative. Using the NAIS databases, animal health officials are able to complete this important task quickly and thoroughly.

As this example illustrates, by enabling rapid response, NAIS helps protect U.S. producers from the devastating losses that are often associated with a disease outbreak. USDA has entered into a cooperative agreement with Kansas State University to lead a multi-institutional team in conducting a cost-benefit analysis that will help us more precisely forecast the potential economic effects of the NAIS.⁷ But we already know that, to best protect our Nation's producers from the devastating consequences of a disease event, it is critical that animal health officials have the capability to carry out their jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible. NAIS will help reduce the time required to locate infected animals and notify at-risk producers, thereby reducing the opportunities for exposing other susceptible animals and the costs of additional exposure. The more quickly we can identify infected animals and isolate a disease, the fewer farms quarantined, the fewer animals depopulated, the fewer livelihoods lost, and the less spent on eradication activities. The faster we can assure consumers and trading partners that our food supply is healthy and safe, the less economic impact the disease

⁷ The final report should be available in July/August 2008.

situation has on everyone—from producers, to U.S. taxpayers, to State and Federal agencies.

Roles and Responsibilities

In order to make the voluntary NAIS successful, it has been designed as a State-Federal-industry partnership. The responsibility for implementing and administering NAIS is shared among numerous entities—State and Tribal governments, industry groups/private companies, and USDA. Understanding the different roles of these groups will help producers identify the appropriate sources to contact for NAIS-related services and for answers to any questions that may arise as the system is implemented.

Below is a general overview of the various sectors' responsibilities:

States/Tribes

- Maintain Premises Registration Systems;
- Identify and register premises within their geographic areas;
- Submit premises data to USDA's National Premises Information Repository;
- Approve tagging/identification sites and services (used by producers who cannot tag/identify own animals);
- Conduct extensive public outreach to keep producers informed about NAIS and encourage participation;
- Serve as primary point-of-contact for producers seeking guidance/clarification on NAIS requirements within their States or Tribes;
- Report shipment of animal identification number (AIN) devices to the AIN Management System; and,
- Conduct public outreach to keep producers informed about NAIS and encourage participation.

Industry Groups/Private Industry

*Note: This bulleted list refers to industry as a whole and **not** the responsibilities of individual producers.*

- Develop and maintain animal tracking databases (databases are also being developed by some States);
- Act as “authorized agents” to register premises for producers (only with permission from the producer);
- Manufacture and distribute animal identification number (AIN) devices;
- Report shipment of animal identification number (AIN) devices to the AIN Management System; and,
- Conduct public outreach to keep producers informed about NAIS and encourage participation.

Federal

- Develop and maintain the National Premises Information Repository and premises number allocator and provide the Standard Premises Registration System for States and Tribes;
- Establish minimum performance standards for official identification devices;
- Approve animal identification number (AIN) devices and AIN device manufacturers;
- Maintain the Animal Identification Number (AIN) Management System to support the allocation of AINs to manufacturers and recording of device types shipped;

- Provide the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS), a communications system that will allow timely interaction with the multiple private and State animal tracking databases and Federal/State animal health databases, including the AIN Management System to address an animal disease event; and,
- Conduct public outreach to keep all interested parties informed about NAIS and ongoing progress in implementing the system.

Outstanding Issues and the Role of the Species Working Groups

NAIS continues to evolve to meet producer demands, and participant input to the program is critical. As NAIS has progressed, the needs and comments of many individuals have shaped its development. Unique needs and preferences must be considered and addressed to make the system work well for different parts of the animal industry and also for U.S. producers who raise many different species of animals in many different environments.

Some issues can only be addressed sequentially as the NAIS is developed and more fully implemented. The answers to some questions will depend on the choices not yet made by producers themselves. The answer to the important question, “How much will this cost me?” depends, for example, on the choices a producer will make in selecting the type of identification device(s) he or she will use. Competitive forces in the free market most likely will be a primary driver in reducing producer costs.

The Species Working Groups represent a significant, first-tier level of those individuals who will help shape the answers to many of the remaining technical and procedural issues concerning NAIS. The groups’ primary objective is to provide their species-specific knowledge and experience to address species-specific issues to further NAIS’ development and implementation.

The working groups include representatives from various levels and segments of industry. Their input to NAIS’ development is critical, and they contribute the species-specific, ground-level information that is necessary to create an effective system. NAIS working groups are focused on the production of cattle (beef and dairy), bison, poultry, swine, sheep, goats, deer and elk, equines, and alpacas and llamas. Interested individuals may contact the working group chairperson to learn more about becoming a member.

The recommendations developed by the various Species Working Groups are provided to the NAIS Subcommittee which serves under the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases. The Subcommittee is comprised of State and industry stakeholders, with Federal staff providing program resources and administrative support.

In addition to the recommendations from the Species Working Groups, the Subcommittee also accepts recommendations from State and national organizations.

The NAIS Subcommittee reviews and consolidates recommendations it receives, and in turn, reports its findings to the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases. This structure for gathering input and shaping decisions provides an excellent opportunity for industry issues—including those unique to producers—to be thoroughly discussed and to have a consensus position shared with USDA.

Comments concerning NAIS' development are valuable to guide efforts as the NAIS moves forward. We encourage producers to make suggestions about NAIS by contacting the working group(s) for the species of animal(s) they raise. From the home page of the USDA/APHIS Animal Identification Web page (<http://www.usda.gov/nais/>), select the "Contact Us" link in the menu at the top of the page. To provide input to a species working group, click on the "Contact a Working Group" link, which is in the "Contact Us" menu on the right side of the page. Selecting the link will bring up a form on which you can provide your email address, select the appropriate Species Working Group, and provide your comments or questions. More information is also available through the "Species Working Group" link, which is on the left side of the page under the heading "Browse by Subject."

Producers can also submit comments via e-mail at animalidcomments@aphis.usda.gov. Producers should include the species name and the term "working group" in the subject line of the e-mail. Comments can also be mailed directly to USDA. The address is NAIS Program Staff, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, Unit 200, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, Maryland 20737.

In addition, there are animal health officials and APHIS representatives, Area Veterinarians in Charge (AVICs), in each State who can provide assistance. The AVICs work through area offices to support and carry out APHIS-Veterinary Services activities at the State level. For example, AVICs provide health certificate endorsement, supplies for disease control/eradication programs, export certifications, import inspections, and many other APHIS programs and services.

Producers are encouraged to contact the appropriate State animal health officials and AVIC if they have specific questions about NAIS. An "AVIC Contact List" and "States, Territories, and Tribes Contact List" with telephone numbers and other contact information is included in the Appendix of this document. AVIC information is also available on APHIS' Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/downloads/vsavic.pdf.

It is important for producers to know:

- Comments to the Species Working Groups and to USDA concerning NAIS' development are still being accepted.
- The Species Working Groups' consensus recommendation is made available on USDA/APHIS' National Animal Identification System Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/nais/>.

NAIS, which is a voluntary program, will enhance our ability to trace an animal disease to its source. This ability is critical to the health and economic well being of commercial livestock and poultry operations in the United States. The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) provides the legal authority for this program.

Part II: Premises Registration

This part of the document discusses:

- Background on Premises Registration
- Which Locations Should Be Registered
- Multiple Premises Numbers for the Same Owner
- The Premises Identification Numbering System
- Process for Collecting Premises Information
- Non-Producer Participants
- Protection of Information
- The Costs Associated with Premises Registration
- How to Register a Premises (process, contacts, etc.)

Background on Premises Registration

Premises registration, the foundation of NAIS, is fundamental to containing animal diseases. Knowing where animals are located and how to reach owners is the key to rapid, accurate, and cost-effective disease response. By choosing to register their premises, producers become part of a national animal disease response network. They join industry, State and Federal partners, and other producers in controlling and preventing the spread of animal disease.

Opening the lines of communication between producers and animal health officials is critical. By voluntarily registering their premises, producers ensure that they will be notified quickly by animal health official when a disease event might put their animals at risk. They will then have the information they need—when they need it most—to take action and protect the health of their animals. In addition, premises information can be used to define quickly which regions of our country are, and are not, affected by an outbreak—keeping markets open for unaffected producers and preventing unnecessary movement restrictions.

Premises registration also helps safeguard producers against a slow disease response. When animal health officials know where at-risk premises and animals are, and have contact information for the owners, they can respond quickly and strategically to prevent disease spread. The more quickly and effectively a disease is isolated, the less likely it is to spread to additional premises—which means fewer producers are impacted.

Animal owners can participate by registering their premises—a location where livestock or poultry are raised, held, or boarded—with their State, Tribal, or Territorial animal health authority. During the registration process, owners provide basic contact information for their premises and obtain a unique Premises Identification Number for that location.

There are several key points about premises registration:

1. Premises registration is free.
2. The registration process is quick and simple—producers simply fill out the premises registration form. Producers may obtain a copy of the form from their State animal health official. Several States also offer on-line premises registration. To learn more, please visit the NAIS Web site (<http://www.usda.gov/nais/>).
3. Individuals' private information and confidential business information is protected by Federal law from disclosure.
4. Registering a premises does not obligate a producer to participate in the other two components of NAIS.

Which Locations Should be Registered

For the purposes of NAIS, a “premises” is defined as “a unique and describable geographic location where activity affecting the health and/or traceability of animals may occur.” Such locations include farms, ranches, stables, other production units, markets, abattoirs (slaughter facilities), rendering facilities, ports of entry, veterinary clinics/laboratories, exhibitions, and any other location where livestock are raised, held, or boarded.

The definition and examples listed here are general guidelines for premises. Livestock management practices vary depending on a variety of factors. We realize that, as a result, there is no “one size fits all” definition of a premises, and that some operations are difficult to categorize. Producers should consult State and local animal health authorities in their area to determine how their premises fit into NAIS. Officials at the local level will be better able to address variations in production systems and methods, such as how to distinguish between multiple production units within a premises, or how to identify open range and public grazing lands (see “Multiple Premises Numbers for the Same Owner” for further details).

Multiple Premises Numbers for the Same Owner

Livestock farming and ranching operations differ across the country in terms of geographic size, degree of animal movement, proximity to other operations, the number of livestock within the operations and within the area, and the interaction between operations. Therefore, coming up with a “one size fits all” definition of a livestock premises is not possible. In general, a premises is a location where livestock are raised, held, or boarded. Knowledge of where these locations are during an animal health event is key to the timely containment of the disease.

As livestock owners register their premises, they should decide if their operation needs more than one premises identification number (PIN). Some farms have only one location where livestock are held or raised, and a single PIN is needed. Other operations have several locations where livestock can be found. In this case, consultation between the owner and the State/Tribe animal health official may be needed to decide how many of the locations should be assigned a PIN. This decision should be based on the following epidemiological considerations:

1. **Permanence.** Locations that have permanent livestock facilities such as pens, corrals, stables, sale rings, or buildings have a greater need for individual premises identification than locations where livestock are held on a temporary basis such as rented corn stubble fields, wheat pastures, etc.
2. **Area livestock density.** In areas where livestock are densely populated, it is important to identify a sufficient number of premises in order to establish the true epidemiologic picture of the area.
3. **Animal movement between locations.** If there is routine movement of livestock between multiple locations and the movement does not pose a risk to other operations through animal contact, there may be no epidemiologic advantage to giving each location a separate PIN. On the other hand, locations that are handled separately with no animal movement between them could qualify for separate PINs. Again, owners should feel free to consult with their State/Tribal animal health official in cases like this.

4. **Geographic separation.** The risk of exposure of other operations increases when the distance animals are moved from one location to the other increases.
5. **Proximity to other livestock operations.** If routine animal movements involve contact with other livestock along the movement route, or if the location has close contact with a neighboring operation, identification of that premises would be of particular importance to epidemiologists.

In disease incident or outbreak situations, a location or herd identifier is assigned if the location does not already have one.⁸ In such cases, the determination of having one or more premises assigned includes the following factors:

- **Herd disease status.** If the location has animals that are under quarantine, or are known to have tested positive for a disease of concern by Federal or State animal health officials, a separate identifier may be necessary.
- **Area disease status.** In the event of a disease outbreak, it may be necessary to identify each and every premises (regardless of size or permanence) within an affected zone.

Fortunately for producers, they do not have to make these determinations by themselves. State/Tribe and Federal animal health officials are available to help producers register premises in accordance with State/Tribal guidance for establishing animal disease response programs. These animal health officials have access to trained veterinary epidemiologists to assist in making these decisions.

NAIS is a voluntary program at the Federal level. Registering at least one premises in a multiple location operation is certainly preferable to registering none. As outreach and education efforts begin to explain the need for more detail, additional premises can be added to an operation profile when the information is updated. It is important for animal health officials and producers to have flexibility in determining what will work best for each individual livestock operation.

Voluntarily registering an operation with multiple locations and obtaining a PIN for each location does not mean that producers should report the routine movement of animals in and out of those locations as long as the movements are within the same livestock operation. Certainly, producers could choose to report these movements.

Premises Identification Numbering System

A premises identification number (PIN) is a unique, 7-digit code that includes both letters and numbers.

Example: A123R69

The owner of the premises, or a person designated by the owner of the premises, can register his/her location. A premises identification number, or PIN, is then permanently assigned to that location associating it with the mailing address. If there is no mailing address for the livestock/poultry operation, geographic coordinates—latitude and longitude—can be used instead to describe the location. (This does **not** provide any satellite tracking capability of either animals or people living at the premises.) Geographic coordinates can be

⁸ The NAIS premises identification number (PIN) will become the official location identifier as NAIS data standards are integrated into all Federal disease programs.

determined by using driving directions from a point of reference with existing mapping program software. Producers do not need to collect geographic coordinates.

Assigning premises numbers avoids having multiple numbers assigned to the same operation, regardless of species. It is important to remember that the premises identification number (PIN) is assigned permanently to a physical location. If an owner or entity sells his/her farm, the next operators of the premises use the original premises identification number that had been assigned to that location. If the seller buys a new location to build a new operation that never had livestock, he/she would register that location and obtain a new premises identification number (PIN).

States and Tribes are responsible for collecting premises information from producers and registering locations in their geographic areas. This information is entered into the Premises Registration System (a database) used by the State or Tribe. The PIN allocator validates the address/location of each premises and ensures that the address/location has no other premises number already on record. The PIN allocator then issues a premises identification number to the address/location. The State/Tribe informs the person listed as the “point of contact” for the premises of the official premises identification number (PIN) for the location. Some States currently utilize an Internet option for registering one’s premises, and in such cases, the premises identification number (PIN) is provided while online.

Process for Collecting Premises Information

Each State or Tribe adheres to the national data standards and guidelines for premises registration established by USDA. The way premises information is collected and entered is at the discretion of the State or Tribe, and each may have its own additional information requirements for premises registration.

To meet USDA’s data standards for premises registration, States/Tribes collect and maintain at a minimum the following pieces of information:

- premises identification number (PIN);
- name of entity;
- contact person for premises;
- street address, city, state, and zip or postal code (or latitude/longitude coordinates) of the premises;
- contact phone number;
- operation type;
- date activated, date retired, and the reason retired (to determine whether animals still exist at the location); and,
- alternative phone numbers.

To ensure animal health officials at the national level have the necessary contact information in case of a disease concern, States/Tribes forward a subset of information to USDA’s National Premises Information Repository. National animal health officials can then request and obtain this information quickly during a disease outbreak, helping them coordinate their response with the affected States/Tribes.

Again, USDA only requires that States and Tribes collect the minimum information listed above. States or Tribes may choose to collect additional information as part of that State/Tribe’s premises registration process, based on local needs.

Note: The concept of premises registration is not new. For many years, numbers for herds, flocks, and locations have been used in Federal-State animal health programs. In addition, different formats have been used by States for herd and/or location numbers. Often, a single producer may be assigned many numbers for the same operation. The establishment of PINs is needed to standardize the number and the information that pertains to the location where the animals are managed, as well as to avoid duplication of numbers for the same location. The PIN is being incorporated as the standard location identifier in all Federal livestock and poultry disease programs.

Non-Producer Participants

Not all individuals or groups participating in NAIS are directly associated with a premises that manages or holds livestock. The roles of these “non-producer participants” may include, among others, manufacturing and distributing official identification devices, submitting information to designated NAIS databases, or providing device/identification services. (See “How to Obtain Identification Devices” in Part III for information on official identification device distributors.)

These individuals or companies obtain a non-producer participant number (NPN) instead of a premises identification number (PIN). The NPN is obtained using the same procedures for registering premises. The difference is that NPNs are assigned to individuals, organizations, or entities, rather than the address/location of a premises. If a non-producer participant moves to another location, including another State, the NPN will still remain with that entity. The reason for assigning NPNs is to establish a record of each individual/company providing data to NAIS databases. This better enables Federal and State officials to maintain proper data controls and integrity measures for NAIS information.

Protection of Information

Federal law protects individuals’ private information and confidential business information from disclosure. Through both intent and design, NAIS is limited in scope in terms of the type and quantity of information maintained by the Federal Government. The system will hold and maintain only limited premises registration and AIN device distribution information.

USDA’s National Premises Information Repository will contain the following pieces of information:

- Premises Identification Number (PIN);
- name of entity;
- contact person for premises;
- street address;
- city;
- State;
- zip or postal code;
- contact phone number;
- operation type (e.g, farm, ranch, market, packing plant, abattoir, boarding facility, rendering facility, port of entry, veterinary clinic, laboratory, exhibit, etc.);
- date activated in the system;
- date retired from the system; and,
- reason retired.

USDA and State animal health authorities need this basic information so that we can quickly locate premises at risk in the event of an animal disease emergency.

Beyond the premises registration system, USDA will not maintain any additional data on participants in the premises information repository. If and when producers opt to participate in the voluntary animal identification numbering system, their PIN will be associated with the animal identification numbers of the identification tags or devices distributed to their premises. This information will be maintained in the AIN Management System. When producers elect to participate in the animal tracing component they will submit animal movement records to an Animal Tracking Database of their choice. These Animal Tracking Databases are maintained by a State or private service provider. If USDA needs animal movement and location information to respond to an animal health event, data will be requested from the private or State databases where it is held. Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from public disclosure.

The Costs Associated With Premises Registration

Premises registration is free in all States/Tribes. Because premises registration is carried out by individual States/Tribes, each may choose to keep premises registration free or not in their respective areas, based on local needs. To date, all States/Tribes are registering premises at no charge. As a result, there is no cost for producers to participate in the premises registration component of NAIS. Producers should also be aware that registering a premises does not obligate the premises to participate in the other components of NAIS (i.e., voluntary animal identification and tracing).

How To Register a Premises

The owner of the premises, person chosen by the premises owner, or person responsible for the animals at the premises can register a premises by filling out the appropriate premises registration form for his or her State/Tribe and sending it to the State/Tribe's animal health authority (e.g., State veterinarian). Many States offer producers the option of registering their premises online at the State agriculture department or Tribal Web site. (Access to State and Tribal Web sites is available through the NAIS Web site. <http://www.usda.gov/nais/>)

Premises registration forms are available on each State's department of agriculture Web site. Forms can be downloaded from the Web sites and submitted to State animal health authorities via land mail or e-mail. Producers may also contact their State or Tribal NAIS contact by mail or phone to request the appropriate forms (contact information is included in the Appendix under "States, Territories, and Tribes Contact List"). **To view a sample premises registration form, please see page 52 in the Appendix of this document.**

Most States provide step-by-step instructions for the premises registration process on their Web sites. State animal health authorities are also available to answer any questions producers may have about premises registration and/or the registration process.

Tribal members should contact their Tribe's designated liaison for more information and to obtain premises registration forms.

States and Tribes also have the option of allowing industry organizations or groups or other interested third parties to assist with collecting and entering premises data. These groups act as "authorized agents" and, with the permission of the premises owner, are permitted to submit data to the State or Tribe's premises registration system on that person's behalf. Several States are using

authorized agents to help promote NAIS and offer producers another convenient option for registering their premises. If producers are interested in working with an authorized agent, they should check with their State animal health authority to identify any opportunities in their area and obtain contact information.

As mentioned previously, a complete listing of each State/Tribe's contact information for premises registration is provided in the Appendix of this document. This information can also be accessed on USDA/APHIS' Animal Identification Web site (<http://www.usda.gov/nais/>) by selecting the "Contact Us" drop-down menu at the top of the page and choosing "State NAIS Administrator Directory."

Keeping Your Premises Information Current

Since up-to-date information is vital in responding to an animal health event, the person registering the premises is encouraged to keep the requested information current. Each State and Tribe provides guidelines for updating premises information. Keeping your information (contact name, phone number, etc.) current is important in case animal health officials need to contact you in the event of a disease concern in your area.

Industry Cooperators

Several industry organizations are providing premises registration assistance to their members and/or producers in the industry sector they serve. The organizations assist producers with the completion of the premises registration form that is then processed by the appropriate State or Tribe. A list of cooperators is provided on the NAIS Web site.

PART III: Animal Identification

This part of the document is separated into two sections. The first section discusses:

- An Overview of Voluntary Animal Identification
- Individual Animal Identification
- Group/Lot Identification
- Animals Not Needing Identification Numbers

An Overview of Voluntary Animal Identification⁹

Producers who have registered their premises may choose to participate in animal identification, the second component of voluntary NAIS. Animal identification number (AIN) devices are available for use with most species, and devices for use with additional species will be available soon. The list of approved AIN devices is available on the NAIS Web site. Group/lot identification numbers, generated by the producer at the premises, are also an option once the premises has been registered.

Animal identification, whether individual or group/lot, provides producers and owners with a uniform numbering system for identifying their animals. It also links their livestock or poultry to a specific premises – a valuable tool for producers and owners whose animals go into commercial production or move frequently.

The need for, and method of, animal identification will vary depending on where and how animals are moved or “commingled.” Some animals may be identified individually; some may be identified as a group; and some animals would not be asked to be officially identified at all. Each of these scenarios is discussed in more detail below.

Additionally, the method of identification or type of identification device varies among species. For example, cattle are identified with a visual eartag while horses, llamas, alpacas, and other species may be identified with an injectable transponder. USDA has not designated any specific identification technologies beyond the minimum requirements for official identification that have been identified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. What works for one species may not work for another. This is a decision best left to the producers themselves. NAIS works best if there is active involvement and ongoing feedback from the States, industry, and producers. USDA will continue to work with producers and animal owners to ensure that the system is easy to use and makes sense.

Under voluntary NAIS, USDA recommends that animals moved from their current premises to other commercial production locations or premises like auctions/markets, feedlots, etc., be officially identified. In situations where commingling of animals from multiple premises at a location takes place, it is important because it directly influences the potential impact of disease exposure and spread, thus determining whether and when an animal needs to be identified. In general, the term “commingle” refers to events where animals are mixed or brought together with animals from other farms, ranches, or other production systems.

⁹ Producers should check with their State animal health authority for existing animal identification requirements that are currently in place at the State level and are not affected by NAIS.

Individual Animal Identification

Individual Animal Numbering Systems

The USDA has recognized official numbering systems for many years that continue to be official. In other words, because NAIS is implemented for voluntary participation, no previously recognized official numbering system used prior to the Animal Identification Number (AIN) will be discontinued.

Official numbers for individual animal identification include:

- National Uniform Eartagging System (e.g., the traditional calfhood vaccinations device with nine characters—the two-character State abbreviation, three alpha characters, and four digits)
- Premises Identification Number with a unique herd management number (commonly used in the National Scrapie Eradication Program)
- Animal Identification Number (AIN)

Through an interim rule published in November 2004, which was finalized in July 2007, the AIN was established as an official number that could be used for all disease programs as well as by industry for breed registry, performance recording programs, etc.

Animal Identification Number (AIN)

USDA recommends individual identification with an Animal Identification Number (AIN), or other appropriate official number, of those animals that move through the production chain as individuals when the movement, based on disease risk, warrants the need for animal identification.

An animal identification number (AIN) is a unique, 15-digit number, where the first three numbers are the country code and the following 12 digits are the animal's unique identifying number. The first three numbers of an animal identification number (AIN) issued in the United States will always be 840. The AIN is imprinted on identification devices with a space between every 3rd digit to improve readability (the numbers are not stored in databases with the space).

Example: 840 003 123 456 789

Other countries, through international standards, are assigned three-digit codes. For example, Canada's identification numbers have 124 as the first three digits (Canada's country code) followed by 12 additional digits. These numbering systems allow the national number to be unique worldwide.

The person responsible for the care of the animal chooses when to place the identification on the animal (when the AIN device is attached or adhered to the animal). Some producers may want to attach identification devices shortly after birth; others may choose to attach a device later. However, the animal should have identification attached before the animal moves from its current premises to another producer's premises, a livestock market, feedlot, etc.

Producers who purchase animals and bring them into their operation will maintain the official identification already on the animal — no additional identification or change of identification of those animals should occur. Likewise, imported animals will have a national number and official identification devices from the country in which the animal was born. Those animals are required by regulation to keep the official identifier from the country of origin.

See the section on “Loss or Malfunctioning of Identification Devices” for instructions on how to re-identify animals if they lose their identification devices or if the device malfunctions.

Group/Lot Identification

Animals that typically move through the production chain as a group of animals of the same species can be identified by Group/Lot Identification Numbers (GINs), rather than individual numbers. This practice is most common in the poultry and pork industries. However, group/lot identification may be an option for other species when they move through the production chain as a group. The individual identification of such animals in the group or lot with a tag or other identification device is not necessary. An animal removed from the group, however, should be identified individually if it is moved out of the group to another premises.

The group identification number (GIN) is a 15-character number consisting of the 7-character Premises Identification Number; the date that the group or lot of animals was assembled; and a 2-digit number to reflect the count of groups assembled at the same premises on the same day (starting with 01). The date format is mmddyy - for example 041406 for April 14, 2006.

Example: A23456710030204

In the example, this is the fourth group assembled at premise A234567 on October 3, 2002.

The person at the premises who is responsible for animals at that location generates and assigns the group identification numbers (GINs). Since the GIN is “self-generated” by the producer (not assigned by USDA) the GIN of each group is maintained at the premises by the producer in his or her management records. The Species Working Groups will provide more recommendations on a species basis about how group/lot identification applies to each sector of their industry, and in particular how group movements should be maintained and reported.

Animals Not Needing Animal Identification Numbers

Some animals do not need to be identified under NAIS, specifically animals whose movement poses a low risk of disease spread or exposure. Such cases include:

- Animals that never leave the farm or are only moved directly to custom slaughter for personal consumption do not need to be officially identified. In such cases, these movements have little impact on the potential spread of disease and the traceability, if necessary, is adequate. (State requirements for custom slaughter may differ from this Federal guidance.)
- Animals that do not leave their birth premises (e.g., die and are buried at their birth place) do not need to be identified.

In such cases, an individual may choose to participate only in the premises registration portion of NAIS. Voluntarily registering premises does not automatically enroll an individual in the other components of NAIS. USDA encourages all animal owners to register their premises, regardless of the number of animals present, because many animal diseases (such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, and vesicular stomatitis) can be spread whether an animal leaves its home premises or not. Registering a premises ensures that

animal owners will receive the information they need to protect their animals and their investment in the event of a disease outbreak. Contact information provided during premises registration opens the lines of communication between animal owners and animal health officials, which is critical to effective and efficient disease response.

Note: Animals that die on the premises and are taken to a rendering plant need to be identified to ensure there is a means of determining the location from which they were taken. While an AIN device may be used to support this identification requirement, other means of identification are adequate and producers should discuss this with the representative of the rendering plant.

Part III (Continued): Animal Identification

The second section of Part III discusses:

- Options for Identification Devices
- Existing Animal Health Identification Systems
- Cost Considerations for Identification Devices
- USDA's Role in Authorizing Manufacturers
- How to Obtain Identification Devices
- Applying Identification Devices
- Intentional Removal of Identification Devices
- Loss or Malfunctioning of Identification Devices

Options for Identification Devices

At the Federal level, participation in NAIS is voluntary. However, existing regulations in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) for certain diseases such as brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis and the interstate commerce of certain classes and ages of animals define requirements for animal identification, and in some cases, define the devices that can be used. These include official eartags, tattoos, and radio frequency identification devices (RFID). Registered brands administered through recognized brand authorities are recognized as official identification within the States that have brand regulations, but are not considered official individual animal identification on the interstate certificates of veterinary inspection.

NAIS does not alter any regulations in the CFR or at the State level. However, AIN tags used in NAIS are official identification devices and may be used to meet the needs for official identification that is regulated through the CFR or by the States.

USDA has not designated any specific identification technologies beyond the minimum requirements for official identification that have been identified in the CFR. NAIS works best if there is active involvement and feedback from the States, industry, and producers. NAIS remains open with regard to the technology used to identify an animal and will not require any specific identification technology—such as RFID tags or injectable transponders. When a technology, such as RFID, is incorporated with an AIN device, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards or their equivalent are used to ensure the compatibility of the technology across multiple manufacturers.

The Species Working Group recommendations¹⁰ may contain other guidelines that further explain what animals should be identified, when, and what methods are recommended. The Species Working Groups are analyzing which identification devices and methods work best for their species and will help determine appropriate standards for identification devices and methods.

Identification devices that use the animal identification number (AIN) in accordance with the CFR and NAIS criteria are also recognized as official for use in interstate commerce.

AIN Devices

For livestock industries that generally use visual identification, such as cattle and sheep, animal identification number (AIN) tags are the accepted industry

¹⁰ The Species Working Groups' recommendations are made available on USDA/APHIS' Animal Identification Web site at http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/species_work_groups/index.shtml.

standard when unique individual animal identification is warranted. USDA, with industry input through the species working groups, has established standards for AIN tags (readability, durability, printing characteristics, etc.). Other animals—such as horses—that are not typically identified with eartags would not need to be identified with such devices. USDA recently approved an injectable transponder for use in horses, alpacas and llamas. The Equine Species Working Group, comprised of industry and government representatives, has recommended that NAIS use ISO 11784 and 11785 compliant injectable transponders as the preferred method of electronic identification in horses.

Supplemental Identification

Producers and owners of animals may choose to incorporate supplemental identification methods or technologies with the animal identification number (AIN) tag or device. If they do, the animal identification number (AIN) tag or device is the official identifier. For example, the cattle working group has recommended RFID eartags, which use radio frequency to convey information, as a preferred form of identification. RFID tags that meet the minimum visual characteristics, when so authorized, can be used as animal identification number (AIN) tags.

The flexibility of supplemental identification allows higher radio frequencies, biometrics (DNA, retinal imaging, etc.), and other technologies to be used with the animal identification number (AIN) tag or device. While visual identification eartags are the standard for certain species—cattle, for instance—different methods are used for other species. The Equine Species Working Group, for example, recommends an injectable transponder. Other Species Working Groups continue to analyze the types of identification devices and methods that are best for their species and industry and will provide recommendations in that regard. In cases where group/lot identification is appropriate, no identification device is needed for individual animals that are managed and move together through the production chain as a group.

Brands

Brands were originally established, however, to support “proof of ownership,” and they have frequently played an important role in tracing animals for disease purposes. Brands and the brand infrastructure will continue to be a vital part of animal identification. A Brand State Working Group was established in 2006 to ensure that NAIS capitalizes on the merits of branding and the brand inspection infrastructure as the program moves forward. We have received valuable feedback so far, and will continue working closely with brand States on NAIS issues. Specifically, the working group is attempting to define and demonstrate how official brands can best be used to support the objectives of the NAIS and to then offer the results for consideration and inclusion in the NAIS plans. The working group is also exploring cooperative efforts that might be of merit to the brand system as well.

Existing Animal Health Identification Systems

In addition to USDA’s animal identification number (AIN) system, there are currently several other official numbering systems and several methods of identifying individual animals. The goal, however, is to move to a single numbering system when practical and use standard identification methods that the Species Working Groups recommend as the most effective for their species. Over time, the animal identification number (AIN) will become the standard national numbering system used for unique individual animal identification for certain species and/or methods of identification.

USDA is working to incorporate identification numbers and devices already in use for animal health programs. Animals currently identified through official programs like the National Scrapie Eradication Program do not need to be re-identified for NAIS. Use of the AIN has begun in the chronic wasting disease program and the tuberculosis program. AIN tags, rather than the original orange vaccination tags, may also be used in the brucellosis program, if preferred by the producer. The AIN devices may be used to meet the requirements of official identification in Federal animal disease programs.

Cost Considerations for Identification Devices

The cost of the AIN devices varies based on the type of identification device the producer chooses. Such costs are determined by the species being identified and the intended use of the device for herd management. For example, plastic eartags with a panel for writing or imprinting each animal's herd management number may cost in the neighborhood of \$1 each, while some of the button-like radio frequency eartags are between \$2 and \$3. Devices can come with a variety of services, and thus the person selecting the device will likely consider the options offered by each organization providing the animal identification number (AIN) device.

The administration of other devices, radio frequency injectable transponders for example, may typically be implanted by a veterinarian. In such cases, the cost of these identification devices may include the service charge for implanting the transponder in the proper implant site. Currently, such cost for implanting the transponder in horses is approximately \$15 to \$20 per horse and is also dependent on variation in travel cost of the veterinarian to the premises. Individuals with the expertise to implant the transponders themselves would only pay for the cost of the transponder.

Specific information about the costs of AIN devices may be obtained from the AIN managers and resellers that provide the devices to the producer. For more information, contact the AIN device manufacturer to obtain names of the AIN managers or resellers in your area. The list of approved AIN manufacturers is provided on the NAIS Web site.

USDA'S Role in Authorizing Manufacturers

Using the Web-based AIN Management System (AINMS), USDA allocates animal identification numbers (AINs) to manufacturers that are authorized by USDA to produce official identification devices or technologies. The AIN device manufacturers are only permitted to use AINs allocated to them; this ensures that the uniqueness of the animal identification numbers is maintained. All of the manufacturers have the responsibility for issuing AINs only on official identification devices.

AIN device manufacturers have representatives that provide AIN devices to producers and animal owners. The AIN device manufacturers report the animal identification number imprinted or embedded on each device, the Product Code of each device, and the distribution record of each AIN device to the AINMS.

How To Obtain Identification Devices

Individuals who choose to participate in the voluntary NAIS and choose to use AIN tags/devices for their animals can obtain devices from a representative of authorized AIN device manufacturers, referred to as AIN device managers. Here are the basic steps and requirements:

1. Make sure the premises where the animals are located is registered and has a premises identification number (PIN). See this document's section on premises registration for details.
2. Contact an AIN manager who provides the AIN device(s) of your preference. A list of authorized AIN identification devices, their manufacturers, and the species for which each is recommended is available through the AIN Management System Information Web page (http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/animal_id/ain_mngt_sys.shtml). Contact the device manufacturer to obtain the contact information for manager(s) in your area.¹¹
3. Give your premises identification number (PIN) to the animal identification number (AIN) device manager. The manager will validate the premises identification number (PIN), and the devices will be shipped or delivered to the premises.

In the future, animal identification number (AIN) devices may be available through farm supply centers that become AIN device managers. Also, some devices, such as injectable transponders, may more commonly be available through veterinarians who are trained to apply the device.

IMPORTANT: Producers should obtain devices only from representatives of authorized AIN device manufacturers. This will ensure that they are getting USDA approved and official identification devices. In addition, the representatives of the AIN device manufacturer can provide information to the producers on the proper use of official animal identification devices.



Official AIN tags (eartags) contain the animal identification number (AIN), the U.S. Shield, and the words, “Unlawful To Remove.” Additionally, the approved tag manufacturer has its trademark or logo imprinted or engraved on the tag. The Animal Identification Number is only allowed to be imprinted on official identification devices.

Applying Identification Devices To Animals

For individuals who choose to participate in the voluntary NAIS, the person responsible for the care of the animal chooses when to place the identification on the animal. However, the animal should have identification attached according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer of the device before leaving its current premises or when moved to another individual's premises, market, exhibition, etc. Animals are identified only once, not every time the animal is moved. The animal identification number (AIN) device is to be maintained on the animal, and the AIN on the device is associated with the animal for the animal's entire life.

¹¹ Some States may require certain methods of identification. Producers should check with their State animal health authority for such existing requirements. These requirements are not affected by NAIS.

While many producers will tag or identify their animals, if significant interest is shown by producers, additional options will be made available for producers that do not have facilities to tag their own animals. For example, if the animals cannot be tagged at their current premises, producers might elect to have their animals tagged at an auction market that provides tagging services when they are ready to market their animals. In such cases, when the animals are unloaded, they would be tagged before they are commingled with animals from other premises. In addition, in some areas, tagging services may be available. Producers can hire an individual to come to their premises with portable gates and chutes and tag the animals there. Some veterinarians may also offer tagging services for their clients when providing herd health services. If interest from producers indicates a need for such services, USDA, along with States and industry, will develop the requirements and approval process for tagging sites and service providers.

Intentional Removal of Identification Devices

In the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), §71.22 the intentional removal of or tampering with official identification devices is prohibited. Specifically, it is unlawful to remove an official identification device or cause the removal of one unless the animal is terminated, except in cases when a device has become illegible or the device malfunctions. This regulation pertains to all official identification devices, including official identification of other countries on imported animals.

Loss or Malfunctioning of Identification Devices

USDA recognizes that identification devices might become separated from the animal or others might malfunction (radio frequency transponders). For example, eartags can be pulled off an animal due to various environmental factors where cattle are managed. Animals that lose their original identification devices or animals on which the devices malfunction should be identified with new devices. It is recommended that such animals be re-identified in as timely a manner as possible. The owner should maintain a record of the animal that was re-identified and, if possible, cross-reference to the previous official number of the animal that was re-identified. The Animal Tracking Databases will provide options for reporting the new number along with the animal's previous number. If the owner or person responsible for the animal does not know that animal's original number, in particular with purchased animals, he/she should keep records of the fact that the animal was re-identified. At a minimum, the owner or person responsible for the animal should maintain a record of all animals that were re-identified and any information about these animals.

Note: Some breed registries provide options where animals are re-identified with “replacement” devices with the same animal identification number (AIN) that was first applied to the animal. This practice helps maintain accurate records of offspring, performance, genetics, etc. Such replacement devices, when administered through breed register programs and when meeting established safeguards, are also a viable option.

Part IV: Animal Tracing

This part of the document is separated into two sections. The first section discusses:

- An Overview of Animal Tracing
- Animal Tracking and Traceback Processing Systems
- Selecting an Animal Tracking Database
- Costs Associated with Animal Tracking Databases
- How the Systems Work When Responding to an Animal Disease

An Overview of Animal Tracing

The final component of voluntary NAIS, animal tracing, is an option for the producer that elects to report certain animal movements. States and private industry maintain animal tracking databases that hold the animal movement records. Those records are made available to animal health officials to respond to disease events, which are explained in the following section.

Producers select the animal tracking database of their choice for reporting animal movements. The list of compliant animal tracking databases is available on the NAIS Web site. When animal movement records are linked with other NAIS information, animal tracing information will provide animal health officials with timely, accurate records that show where animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them. Animal tracing information also makes it easier for producers, States, industry, and USDA to determine the scope of an animal disease event and locate affected animals.

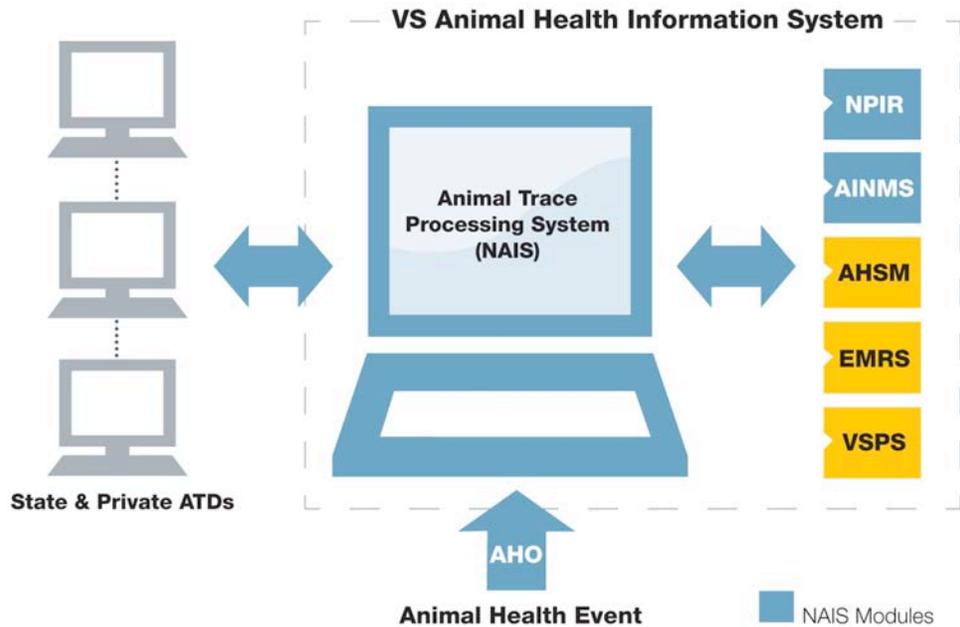
Animal Tracing and Traceback Processing Systems

The voluntary animal tracing component of NAIS is a public/private partnership. Both industry—through private systems—and States operate and maintain animal tracking databases (ATDs), which contain the animal location and movement records that producers report to help safeguard animal health. On the Federal side, USDA operates a portal system that will enable animal health officials to submit requests for information to the administrators of the animal tracking databases (ATDs) when investigating an animal disease event. This system is known as the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS). State and Federal animal health officials will use the System only in the following situations:

- An indication (suspect, presumptive positive, etc.) or confirmed positive test of a foreign animal disease;
- An animal disease emergency as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and/or State Departments of Agriculture; or
- A need to conduct a traceback/traceforward to determine the origin of infection for a program disease (brucellosis, tuberculosis, etc.).

With collaboration from State and industry partners, USDA completed development of the ATPS and the technical requirements for the integration of private and State animal tracking databases (ATDs) with the ATPS in early 2007. The technical requirements are available online at http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/ATPS_Technical_Specs.pdf.

The following illustration reflects the integration of the ATPS with both Federal internal databases and those provided external to the USDA.



Systems that meet the complete specifications are designated as “NAIS Compliant Animal Tracking Databases” upon the signing of the agreement with the organization responsible for the information system. To ensure that USDA receives timely responses from the ATDs, the systems are required to have an “up time” of 98 percent—an information technology standard. As an additional safeguard, the ATDs will send an electronic “system on-line” message to the ATPS on a set time interval. This will enable USDA to know the percentage of systems that are available at any time. The listing of NAIS Compliant ATDs, and their production status, including online integration with the ATPS, is available on the NAIS Web site.

Selecting An Animal Tracking Database¹²

IMPORTANT: Producers and other stakeholders may select the animal tracking database (ATD) they wish to use for reporting their animal movements. Once a cooperative agreement is signed, the NAIS-compliant ATD is added to the list of organizations and States that offer NAIS-compliant ATDs, which is posted on the USDA/APHIS Animal Identification Web site.

All compliant animal tracking databases (ATDs) must meet certain specifications. The cooperative agreements between USDA and database operators will outline data elements, access privileges, and operating procedures, as well as stipulate how movement data will be archived and transferred to ensure uninterrupted flow of information in case the organization or company ceases business or elects to discontinue the operation of the animal tracking database (ATD).

If and when producers choose to participate in the tracking database, they will be working directly with the private company or State providing the ATD. The information held in ATDs is within the control of private entity or State. USDA will not hold and, therefore, cannot distribute this information. If USDA needs

¹² Producers should first check with their State animal health authority to see what animal tracking database (ATD) options are offered by their State.

animal movement and location information to respond to an animal disease issue, we will request the data from the administrators of the private and State databases only for animals involved in the disease of concern. Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from public disclosure.

Under NAIS, only minimum, standardized tracing information is necessary to participate in animal tracing:

- National premises identification number (PIN);
- Animal identification number (AIN);
- Date of the event; and
- The event itself (move-in or move-out).

Other animal-specific data (age, species, sex, etc.) that supports NAIS in traceback situations are also standardized, but are not necessary for participation.

Costs Associated With Animal Tracking Databases

Databases will vary in regards to cost, the range of services offered, and the operational details (such as how to submit animal movement information). Some producers may want to purchase optional services that are not available from all animal tracking database (ATD) providers; others may choose a database that handles only basic information. For example, service fees of one ATD service provider may differ from another because it provides marketing information (i.e., carcass information, health records, expected progeny differences (EPDs), etc.). States may also elect to provide an animal tracking database (ATD).

The cost of participating with an animal tracking database (ATD) therefore depends somewhat on the producer's choice. Actual ATD service fees may be obtained directly from the organization that provides the ATD.

How the Systems Work When Responding To an Animal Disease

When animal health officials receive an indication (suspect, presumptive positive, etc.) or confirmation of a positive diagnosis of disease, the process to gather the necessary information is initiated. This example provides a general explanation of how the private and State ATDs participating in the NAIS are utilized. The basic processes are similar for all diseases, but the request for information will vary based on the type of disease. For example, the cohorts, or animals that were herdmates of the subject animal, at each location the positive animal was cared for must be located when contagious diseases (such as avian influenza, brucellosis, foot-and-mouth disease, tuberculosis, etc.) are involved. In a BSE case, the birthplace is the most important location to trace, along with other animals within the same age group as the infected animal at the initial premises.

1. The animal health official (AHO) initiates the traceback process by logging onto the ATPS through secured and authorized access controls. This official enters the information on the disease case—for example, the subject animal's official identification number and, if known, the premises number of the animal's location. Based on the type of disease, the animal health official will define what date ranges are to be included in the request for information. These specifications define the

“search criteria” that will allow the private and State databases to return the necessary information specific for this disease case.

2. The ATPS sends an electronic message to each private and State database’s electronic messaging system with the search criteria.
3. Each private and State database automatically processes the request and returns a report to the ATPS within 15 – 30 minutes. If records meeting the search criteria are found, the information will be contained in an encrypted (data protected) electronic record back to the ATPS.
4. The ATPS receives and compiles the information from each private and State database. In certain disease cases, additional requests to each ATD will be necessary. For example, the cohort of the animal at Premises 1234XYZ, 840 123 456 789 012 moved to Premises ABC6789. A second request for information for animals that came into contact with this cohort animal and all others found in the first request would be sent to each private and State database. This process may need to be repeated numerous times to obtain all the necessary information.
5. When the request for information has been completed, the AHO logs back on to the ATPS to obtain the report containing the necessary information for the traceback study.
6. Animal health officials that have animals in their State related to the disease case are informed and provided with the information on premises and animals in their areas.
7. These officials continue the contacts with producers that currently have or have had animals included in the disease investigation.

Part IV (Continued): Animal Tracing

The second section of Part IV discusses:

- The Goals of Tracing Animal Movements
- Reportable Animal Movements
- Additional Comment Regarding Reportable Animal Movements
- Non-Commercial Producer Guidance

The Goals of Tracing Animal Movements

Since NAIS is concerned with animal health relative to animal diseases, those movements carrying a high risk of disease transmission will be the primary focus of tracing efforts. In commerce and in the production chain, animals often move from one premises to another where they come into contact with animals that originated from other premises and move again from that point, often in different directions. This commingling and subsequent movement often presents situations where contagious diseases can spread easily and be carried across great distances.

USDA defines retrieval of traceback data within a 48-hour window as optimal for efficient, effective disease containment. Within this timeframe, animal health officials must have the data required to trace a disease back to its source and limit potential harm to animal agriculture, such as loss of producer income. The sooner reliable data is available, the sooner affected animals can be located, appropriate response measures can be established, and disease spread can be halted. Collaboration between APHIS-Veterinary Services, State animal health authorities, and the animal agriculture production industry remains the catalyst for continued traceability progress.

USDA realizes that attempting to record all animal movements is not practical, and that is not the intent in NAIS. Rather, the focus of NAIS is on the type of movement and its potential impact on spreading a disease.

There are a number of factors that can influence whether an animal movement activity may pose a disease risk or impact the spread of a disease. Certainly, some events pose greater risk of disease transmission than others. The number of animals, their source(s), the health status and certification of the animals, and the location of the event, for example, all influence the degree of disease risk in a given situation. For example, taking your animal on a trail ride with a neighbor, animals accidentally wandering off a premises, or moving livestock from pasture to pasture within your operation would pose a relatively low risk or impact of spreading disease. These types of movements are not the focus of the NAIS and, therefore are not reportable animal movement events. While risk of exposure to a disease and its spread is certainly possible for any movement (including local county fairs, parades, etc.),¹³ because these events are more localized, they have less potential impact on the spread of a disease than events where animals travel greater distances. From a disease standpoint, it would be unnecessary to report animal movements in such low-risk/impact situations.¹⁴

¹³ Although these movements represent lower-risk/impact situations than movements of animals into commerce or to larger fairs or shows that involve commingling of large numbers of animals from greater distances and geographical spread, USDA still encourages all animal owners to voluntarily register their premises, since this information opens the lines of communication with State animal health officials as discussed earlier in this document. The use of health papers with premises registration, along with official individual animal identification, of some species is appropriate, warranted, and commonly practiced for local county fairs, etc.

¹⁴ Producers should check with their respective State and/or local animal health authority on existing requirements for animal movement reporting that are currently in place at that level and are not affected by NAIS.

Reportable Animal Movements

The NAIS Species Working Groups, in collaboration with animal health officials, are developing recommendations for the specific types of movement that pose the greatest potential to impact the spread of diseases for each species and should be reported to an animal tracking database. The following chart provides a preliminary list of animal movement examples and the importance of reporting such events to an animal tracking database. The intent of this chart is to establish guidelines for what types of movements should be reported to ensure an effective system evolves, while, at the same time, remaining practical for stakeholders to participate in.

Again, participation in NAIS—including the animal tracing component—is voluntary at the Federal level. If producers choose to participate in the animal tracing component in the future, it will be an available option when they are ready.

Animal Movement/Reporting Scenarios		
Type of Movement	Relative Reporting Importance	Explanation
A private sale of an animal—for example, moving an animal from its birth premises to another premises operated by another person who frequently markets and moves other animals in and out of that premises	High	When an animal moves from its birth premises to another, the potential for disease spread warrants the reporting of the movement and provides an essential record to respond to a disease outbreak.
Selling animals through a public market or auction	High	Reporting the movement of animals that move through a market facility is important since animals come from numerous premises and the animal may also relocate to many different premises.
Participation of animals at regional or national exhibitions and/or sporting events	High	Large shows, particularly when animals come from long distances, are of merit for reporting those related movements. Animal movements to events at a State level, and more so, regional and national events are of value to report.
Participation of animals at local exhibitions and/sporting events	Low	The probability of exposure to and spread of a disease at local fairs is a real possibility. However, since the disease in such cases is more localized, the movement of animals to local fairs is not considered reportable movement. Nevertheless, the use of health papers with premises registration, along with official individual animal identification, of some species is appropriate, warranted, and commonly practiced.

Animal Movement/Reporting Scenarios		
Type of Movement	Relative Reporting Importance	Explanation
Moving an animal from its birth premises direct to custom butcher	Not applicable	If the animal is moving from its birthplace to custom slaughter for one's personal use, the animal movement does not need to be reported, since this type of movement poses minimal risk of disease exposure or spread (and the animal does not need to be identified with an AIN device). Owners of the animals that intend to resell or distribute the products need to follow State regulations regarding such practices.
Participation in a local trail ride	Low	Local trail rides are not considered a necessary reportable movement. While the exposure to disease and possibility of disease spread exist, the effect would be more local and thus have less impact.
Animals moved within the operation or premises—for example, from one pasture to another	Not Applicable	Animals that move within the same premises—for example, moving close-up bred heifers from the heifer lots to the free stall barn, or moving the cow herd from one pasture to another—do not need to be reported since these types of movements are considered within the operation management movements. The entire operation is considered a single premises during a disease outbreak.
<i>All movements pose some risk related to exposure to or spread of disease. The movements associated with the potential of having a "high" impact on the spread of a disease are considered "reportable movements" within the context of NAIS. However, any movement may be reported if the producer/owner so desires.</i>		

Again, it must be noted that, if certain animal disease issues are present in a given geographic area, the reporting of animal movement becomes more critical and may vary during the period when greater monitoring of the disease is being administered by animal health officials.

The instructions on how to report animal movements will vary depending on the animal tracking database (ATD) chosen by the producer. If producers elect to participate in this component, they are encouraged to have reportable movements reported within 24 hours or by the close of the next business day.

IMPORTANT: Producers should consult with State or local animal health officials when uncertain about the justification or need to report an intrastate animal movement.

Additional Comment Regarding Reportable Animal Movements

As noted earlier in this document, the Species Working Groups' recommendations are made available on USDA/APHIS' Animal Identification Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/nais/>.

Stakeholder feedback has been a valuable tool throughout the development of NAIS. Species Working Groups provide recommendations and reports to the NAIS Subcommittee—made up of industry, State, and Federal representatives. The NAIS Subcommittee (1) provides overall program recommendations, based on the Species Working Group reports; (2) reviews/acts on the reports; and (3) reports to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases. This structure helps ensure that stakeholder feedback is heard and considered throughout the development and implementation of the program.

Additional Producer Guidance

Animal diseases can affect producers with operations of all sizes. Swiftly moving, highly contagious diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease can harm producers, regardless of the number of animals they have. Diseases can spread through a variety of sources — human contact, tainted food or water supplies, insects, airborne viruses, or migratory birds — and the number of animals, their source(s), the location of the event, and the health status and certification of animals all influence the potential for disease spread. The spread of disease can affect all types and sizes of producer operations, therefore, USDA encourages all animal owners to voluntarily register their premises to ensure the lines of communication with State animal health officials are open.

APPENDIX

AVIC Contact List

Alabama

USDA, APHIS, VS
Beard Office Building (Packages)
1445 Federal Drive, Room 218
P.O. Box 70429 (Letters)
Montgomery, AL 36107
(334) 223-7141, 47, 48
Fax (334) 223-7352

Alaska

USDA, APHIS, VS
2604 12th Court, SW, Suite B
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 753-9430
Fax (360) 753-9585

Arizona

USDA, APHIS, VS
1400 E. Southern Ave., Suite 245
Tempe, AZ 85282
(480) 491-1002
Fax (480) 491-1895

Arkansas

USDA, APHIS, VS
1200 Cherry Brook Dr., Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72211
(501) 224-9515
Fax (501) 225-5823

California

USDA, APHIS, VS
10365 Old Placerville Road, Suite
210
Sacramento, CA 95827-2518
(916) 854-3950
Fax (916) 363-3919

Colorado

USDA, APHIS, VS
755 Parfet Street, Suite 136
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 231-5385
Fax (303) 231-5390

Florida

USDA, APHIS, VS
7022 NW 10th Place
Gainesville, FL 32605-3147
(352) 333-3120
Fax (352) 333-6849

Georgia

USDA, APHIS, VS
1498 Klondike Rd., Suite 200
Conyers, GA 30094
(770) 922-7860
Fax (770) 483-9000

Hawaii

USDA, APHIS, VS
2604 12th Court, SW, Suite B
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 753-9430
Fax (360) 753-9585

Idaho

USDA, APHIS, VS
9158 West Black Eagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 378-5631
Fax (208) 378-5637

Illinois

USDA, APHIS, VS
2815 Old Jacksonville Rd., Suite 104
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 862-6689
Fax (217) 862-6695

Indiana

USDA, APHIS, VS
5685 Lafayette Road, Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46254-6158
(317) 290-3300
Fax (317) 290-3311

Iowa

USDA, APHIS, VS
Federal Bldg., Rm. 891
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 284-4140
Fax (515) 284-4156

Kansas

USDA, APHIS, VS
1947 NW Topeka Blvd., Suite F
Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 270-1300
Fax (785) 235-1464

Kentucky

USDA, APHIS, VS
P.O. Box 399
Frankfort, KY 40602
(502) 227-9651
Fax (502) 223-7121

Louisiana

USDA, APHIS, VS
5825 Florida Blvd., Rm 1140
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-9985
(225) 389-0436
Fax (225) 389-0524

Maryland (DE, DC)

USDA, APHIS, VS
1598 Whitehall Road, Suite A
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 349-9708
Fax (301) 261-8113

Massachusetts (CT, ME, NH, RI, VT)

USDA, APHIS, VS
160 Worcester-Providence Road
Sutton Square Plaza, Suite 20
Sutton, MA 01590-9998
(508) 865-1421, 22
Fax (508) 865-9317

Michigan

USDA, APHIS, VS
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 325
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 324-5290
Fax (517) 324-5289

Minnesota

USDA, APHIS, VS
251 Starkey Street
Bolander Bldg., Suite 229
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 290-3691
Fax (651) 228-0654

Mississippi

USDA, APHIS, VS
345 Keyway Street
Flowood, MS 39232
(601) 965-4307
Fax (601) 965-5535

Missouri

USDA, APHIS, VS
P.O. Box 104418
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4418
(573) 636-3116
Fax (573) 636-4384

Montana

USDA, APHIS, VS
208 North Montana Ave., Suite 101
Helena, MT 59601-3837
(406) 449-2220
Fax (406) 449-5439

Nebraska

USDA, APHIS, VS
P.O. Box 81866
Lincoln, NE 68501
(402) 434-2300
Fax (402) 434-2330

Nevada

USDA, APHIS, VS
10365 Old Placerville Road, Suite
210
Sacramento, CA 95827-2518
(916) 854-3950
Fax (916) 363-3919

New Jersey

USDA, APHIS, VS
Mercer Corporate Park
320 Corporate Blvd.
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598
(609) 259-8387
Fax (609) 259-2477

New Mexico

USDA, APHIS, VS
6200 Jefferson Street, NE, Suite 117
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 761-3160
Fax (505) 761-3176

New York

USDA, APHIS, VS
500 New Karner Road, 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 869-9007
Fax (518) 869-6135

USDA-APHIS-VS
230-59 International Airport Center
Blvd.
Suite 100, Room 101
Jamaica, NY 11413
(718) 553-1727
Fax (718) 553-7543

North Carolina

USDA, APHIS, VS
930 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 855-7700
Fax (919) 855-7720

North Dakota

USDA, APHIS, VS
3509 Miriam Ave., Suite B
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 250-4210
Fax (701) 250-4471

Ohio

USDA, APHIS, VS
12927 Stonecreek Drive
Pickerington, OH 43147
(614) 469-5602
Fax (614) 866-1086

Oklahoma

USDA, APHIS, VS
4020 North Lincoln Blvd., Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 427-9413
Fax (405) 427-9451

Oregon

USDA, APHIS, VS
530 Center St., NE, Suite 335
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 399-5871
Fax (503) 399-5607

Pennsylvania

USDA, APHIS, VS
2301 N. Cameron St., Rm. 412
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 782-3442
Fax (717) 782-4098

Puerto Rico (Virgin Islands)

USDA, APHIS, VS
IBM Building
654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 700
Hato Rey, PR 00918
(787) 766-6050
Fax (787) 766-5159

South Carolina

USDA, APHIS, VS
9600 Two Notch Road, Suite 10
Columbia, SC 29229
(803) 788-1919
Fax (803) 788-2102

South Dakota

USDA, APHIS, VS
314 S. Henry, Suite 100
Pierre, SD 57501-0640
(605) 224-6186
Fax (605) 224-8451

Tennessee

USDA, APHIS, VS
P.O. Box 110950
Nashville, TN 37222
(615) 781-5310
Fax (615) 781-5309

Texas

USDA, APHIS, VS
Thornberry Bldg., Rm. 220
903 San Jacinto Blvd.
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 383-2400
Fax (512) 916-5197

Utah

USDA, APHIS, VS
176 N. 2200 West, Suite 230
Airport Park, Bldg. #4
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 524-5010
Fax (801) 524-6898

Virginia

USDA, APHIS, VS
Federal Building
400 North 8th Street, Room 726
Richmond, VA 23240
(804) 343-2560
Fax (804) 343-2599

Washington

USDA, APHIS, VS
2604 12th Court, SW, Suite B
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 753-9430
Fax (360) 753-9585

West Virginia

USDA, APHIS, VS
12927 Stonecreek Drive
Pickerington, OH 43147
(614) 469-5602
Fax (614) 866-1086

Wisconsin

USDA, APHIS, VS
6510 Schroeder Road, Suite 2
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 270-4000
Fax (608) 270-4001

Wyoming

USDA, APHIS, VS
5353 Yellowstone Road, Room 209
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 772-2186
Fax (307) 772-2592

States, Territories, and Tribes Contact List

Note: The following contacts are up to date as of December 2007. Future updates will be provided as needed and posted to the USDA/APHIS Animal Identification Web site.

States

Alabama

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Address: P.O. Box 3336
Montgomery, AL 36109-0336
Phone: (334) 240-7253 / FAX: (334) 240-7198
Email: animalid.premises@agi.alabama.gov
Web: www.agi.alabama.gov/state_veterinarian

Alaska

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Health
Address: 550 S Alaska Street, Suite 6
Palmer, AK 99645-6340
Phone: (907) 375-8215 / FAX: (907) 745-8125
Web: www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/vet/nais.htm

Arizona

Arizona Department of Agriculture
Address: 1688 West Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: (602) 542-0943
Web: www.azda.gov/Main/animalID.htm

Arkansas

Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission
Address: #1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
Phone: (501) 907-2400 / FAX: (501) 907-2425
Web: www.arlpc.org

California

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health Branch
Address: 1220 N Street, Room A-107
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 654-1264 / FAX: (916) 653-2215
Web: www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais

Colorado

Colorado Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry
Address: 700 Kipling St., Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone: (303) 239-4516 / FAX: (303) 239-4164
Web: www.COanimalid.org

Connecticut

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Address: 165 Capitol Avenue, Room G-8A
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 713-2505 / FAX: (860) 713-2515
Web: www.ct.gov/doag

Delaware

Delaware Department of Agriculture
Address: 2320 South Dupont Highway
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: (302) 739-4811 / FAX: (302) 697-4451

Florida

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal Industry
Address: 407 South Calhoun Street, Mail Stop M-7
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
Phone: (850) 410-0940 / FAX: (850) 410-0957
Web: www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc_nais.shtml
Registration Help Desk: animalid@doacs.state.fl.us

Georgia

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Address: 19 MLK Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 656-3671 / FAX: (404) 657-1357
Web: http://agr.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,38902732_0_41051091,00.html

Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Animal Industry Division
Address: 99-941 Halawa Valley Street
Aiea, HI 96701
Phone: (808) 483-7103 / FAX: (808) 483-7110
Web: www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/ai-hapis.htm

Idaho

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Industries
Address: 2270 Old Penitentiary Road
P.O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: (208) 332-8540 / FAX: (208) 334-4062
Web: <http://idahoag.us/Categories/Animals/animalidentification/indexanimalidentificationmain.php>

Illinois

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health
Address: State Fairgrounds
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794
Phone: (217) 785-4740 / FAX: (217) 558-6033
Web: www.agr.state.il.us/premiseid

Indiana

Indiana State Board of Animal Health
Address: 805 Beachway Drive, Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46224
Phone: (317) 227-0300
Web: www.in.gov/boah/premiseid/

Iowa

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Animal Industry
Address: Wallace Building, 502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 1-888-778-7675 (toll free) / (515) 281-5305
FAX: (515) 281-4282
Web: www.agriculture.state.ia.us/premiseID.htm

Kansas

Kansas Animal Health Department
Address: 708 S Jackson
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
Phone: (785) 296-2326 / FAX: (785) 296-175
Web: www.kansas.org/kahd

Kentucky

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Address: 100 Fair Oaks Lane, Suite 252
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3956 / FAX: (502) 564-7852
Web: www.kyagr.com/state_vet/ah/index.htm

Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Office of Animal Health Services
PremiseID@ldaf.state.la.us
Address: 5825 Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 1951
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (888) 773-6489 / FAX: (225) 925-4103
Web: www.ldaf.state.la.us/divisions/ahs/premises.asp

Maine

Maine Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health & Industry
Phone: (207) 287-4507 / FAX: (207) 624-7548
Address: 28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Web: www.maine.gov/agriculture/idme/

Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Address: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 841-5810 / FAX: (410) 841-5999
Web: www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/nais/index.php

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Address: 251 Causeway St., 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Web: www.mass.gov/agr/animalhealth/nais/index.htm

Michigan

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Address: P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-1077 / FAX: (517) 373-6015
Web: www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1568_2390_41314--,00.html

Minnesota

Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Address: 625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 201-6816 / FAX: (651) 296-7417
Web: www.bah.state.mn.us/index/nais/nais.htm

Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Agriculture
Address: 121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39201
Phone: (601) 359-1170 / FAX: (601) 359-1177
Web: www.mbah.state.ms.us

Missouri

Missouri Department of Agriculture
Animal Health Division
Address: 1616 Missouri Blvd., P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630
Phone: (573) 751-2540 / FAX: (573) 751-6919
Web: www.mda.mo.gov/animalID/index.html

Montana

Montana Department of Livestock
Address: P.O. Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001
Phone: (406) 444-2043 / FAX: (406) 444-1929
Web: www.discoveringmontana.com/liv/animalhealth/NAIS/NAIS.asp

Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
Address: P.O. Box 94787
Lincoln, NE 68509-4787
Phone: (800) 572-2437
Email: helpdesk@agr.state.ne.us
Web: www.animalid.us

Nevada

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Address: 350 Capitol Hill Ave.
Reno, NV 89502
Phone: (775) 688-1180 ext. 236
Web: http://agri.nv.gov/Animal2_NAIS.htm

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Address: P.O. Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302-2042
Phone: (603) 271-2404 / FAX: (603) 271-1109
Web: [http://nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/documents/
NHVoluntaryNAISform.pdf](http://nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/documents/NHVoluntaryNAISform.pdf)

New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health
Address: P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: (609) 292-3965
Web: www.state.nj.us/agriculture/animal.htm

New Mexico

New Mexico Livestock Board
Address: 300 San Mateo NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Phone: (505) 841-6161 / FAX: (505) 841-6160
Web: www.livestocktrust.com

New York

State of New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
Division of Animal Industry
Address: 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
Phone: (518) 457-3502 / FAX: (518) 485-7773
Web: www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/AIHome.html

North Carolina

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Address: NCDA&CS, Veterinary Division
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030
Phone: (919) 715-2951 / FAX: (919) 733-6431
Web: www.NCFarmID.com

North Dakota

State Board of Animal Health
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Address: 600 E Boulevard, Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
Phone: (701) 328-2655 / FAX: (701) 328-4567
Web: www.agdepartment.com/Programs/Livestock/BOAH/BOAH.html

For cattle, horses, and mules, producers can also contact:

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Address: 407 South 2nd Street
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone: (701) 223-2522 / FAX: (701) 223-2587
Web: www.ndstockmen.org/

Ohio

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Industry
Address: 8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: (614) 728-6220 / FAX: (614) 728-6310
Web: www.ohioanimalid.com
Help Desk: animalid@mail.agri.state.oh.us

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Address: 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-8804
Phone: (405) 522-6138 / FAX: (405) 522-0756
Cell: (405) 684-3821
Web: www.oda.state.ok.us/ais-naishome.htm

Oregon

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Address: 635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
Phone: (503) 986-4680
Web: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/animal_health/national_id.shtml

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Address: 2301 North Cameron Street, Rm. 408
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
Phone: (717) 772-2852 / FAX: (717) 787-1868
Web: www.animalhealth.state.pa.us

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Agriculture
Address: 235 Promenade Street, Room 370
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: (401) 222-2781 / FAX: (401) 222-6047

South Carolina

Animal Health Programs, Clemson University
Address: P.O. Box 102406
Columbia, SC 29224-2406
Phone: (803) 788-2260 ext. 231
FAX: (803) 736-0885
Web: www.clemson.edu/LPH/nais.htm

South Dakota

South Dakota Animal Industry Board
Address: 411 South Fort St., Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: (605) 773-3321
Web: www.state.sd.us/aib/Animal%20ID.htm

Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agriculture Center
Address: 440 Hogan Road
Nashville, TN 37220
Phone: (615) 837-5183 (Dr. Hatcher)
(615) 837-5189 (Ms. Bowers)
FAX: (615) 837-5250
Web: www.state.tn.us/agriculture/tpis/

Texas

Texas Animal Health Commission
Address: P.O. Box 12966
Austin, TX 78711
Phone: (512) 719-0700 / FAX: (512) 719-0719
Email: comments@tahc.state.tx.us
Web: www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_id/index.shtml

Utah

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Livestock Identification Bureau
Address: P.O. Box 146500
350 North Redwood Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
Phone: (801) 538-7166 / FAX: (801) 538-7169
Web: http://ag.utah.gov/animind/Utah_NAIS.html

Vermont

Vermont Agency of Agriculture
Address: 116 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620
Phone: (802) 828-2421 / FAX: (802) 828-5983
Web: www.vermontagriculture.com/fscp/animalHealth/prs/prs.html

Virginia

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Address: 1100 Bank Street, P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: (804) 692-0601/(540) 437-3917 (Ms. Hunter)
FAX: (804) 225-2666
Web: www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/animalid.html

Washington

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Phone: (360) 902-1881
Web: http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Animal_Premise/default.htm

West Virginia

West Virginia Dept of Agriculture
Animal Health Division
Address: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305
Phone: (304) 558-2214 / (toll free) 1-866-844-2214
Web: www.wvagriculture.org/programs/Animal/Animal%20ID.html

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Phone: (608) 224-4740
Address: P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708
Web: www.datcp.state.wi.us/premises/index.jsp

Wyoming

Wyoming Livestock Board
Address: 2020 Carey Avenue, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6443 / FAX: (307) 777-6561
Web: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us/brands/Premises/>

Territories**Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture
Office of Veterinary Services
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Address: P.O. Box 490
Bo. Higuillar, Dorado, PR 00646
Phone: (787) 796-1650 / FAX: (787) 392-3305

Guam

Guam Department of Agriculture
Address: 192 Dairy Road
Mangilao, Guam 96923
Phone: (671) 734-3942 / FAX: (671) 734-6569

Tribes**Blackfeet Nation**

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Crow Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Eastern Shoshone Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Ft. Belknap Indian Community

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Hopi Tribe

Address: Office of Range Management
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039
Phone: (928) 734-3701

Address: Hopi Veterinary Services
P.O. Box 440
Polacca, AZ 86042
Phone: (928) 738-5251

InterTribal Bison Cooperative

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Navaho Nation

Navaho Nation Veterinary Staff
Address: P.O. Box 1450
Window Rock, AZ 86515
Phone: (928) 871-6615 / FAX: (928) 871-6679
Web: www.livestocktrust.com

Northern Arapahoe Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406-) 353-4653

Osage Nation

Phone: (918) 287-5404

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

San Carlos Apache Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Seminole Tribe

Address: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal Industry
407 South Calhoun Street, Mail Stop M-7
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
Phone: (850) 410-0940 / FAX: (850) 410-0957
Web: www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

Address: Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Industries
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
P.O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: (208) 332-8540 / FAX: (208) 334-4062

Ute Tribe Agriculture Products, LLC

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Ute Mountain Tribe

Web: www.livestocktrust.com

Yomba Shoshone Tribe

Address: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RR1 Box 66, Harlem, MT 59526
Phone: (406) 353-8333 / FAX: (406) 353-4653

Sample Premises Registration Form



NAIS PREMISES REGISTRATION
 ND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH
 SFN 54250 (2-05)

600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept 602
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020
 (701) 328-2350
 1-800-242-7535
 FAX (701) 328-4567
 Dr. Jim Clement - jcclement@state.nd.us
 Becki Bass - rbass@state.nd.us

For Official Use Only

Account Number: _____
Premises Number: _____

Premises or Business/Farm/Ranch Account Information			
This is the contact information for your livestock business entity. This may be different than the location where the animals are kept.			
Business/Farm Name			
Business/Farm Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip Code	County
Business Telephone		Business Email	
Primary Contact: First Name		Middle Name	Last Name
Telephone Number		Fax Number or Email	
Secondary Contact: First Name		Middle Name	Last Name
Telephone Number		Fax Number or Email	

Business Type - Optional (for indemnity purposes only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Organization
	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated
Operation Type: (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Producer Unit/Farm/Ranch	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition
	<input type="checkbox"/> Market/Collection Point	<input type="checkbox"/> Port of Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> Tagging site
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-producer Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> Rendering	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory
Species at Premises (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/> Bison	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep
	<input type="checkbox"/> Swine	<input type="checkbox"/> Horses	<input type="checkbox"/> Llama
		<input type="checkbox"/> Deer & Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> Emu
			<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry

Premises Information (if different than account information):			
Premises Name/Description: (Primary location where animals are housed. i.e. farm/ranch/headquarters, feedlot)			
Premises Address			
City	State	Zip Code	County
Legal Land Description: Township		Range	Section
Name	Telephone Number		Fax Number or Email

Comments:

Producer/Contact Signature	Date
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Glossary

Animal Identification Number (AIN): Ultimately, the Animal Identification Number will be the sole national numbering system for the official identification of individual animals in the United States. The format contains 15 digits: the first three are the country code (840 for the United States), and the following 12 digits are the animal's national number.

AIN Management System: The AIN Management System (AINMS) is a Web-based system maintained by USDA/APHIS to maintain a record of authorized AIN devices, the allocation of AINs to manufacturers of AIN devices, and the distribution of AINs to premises.

AIN Device: Official, animal identification devices that have an AIN printed and/or encoded on them.

AIN Device Manager: An entity that represents an AIN device manufacturer for the distribution of AIN devices. The AIN Device Manager agrees to validate the premises number of the receiving premises or non-producer participant and report the AINs they ship or deliver to the AIN Management System.

AIN Device Manufacturer: A company that is authorized by USDA/APHIS to receive AINs, produce AIN devices and agrees to report the distribution of AIN devices to the AINMS.

Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS): Provides the technology solution to interact with multiple Animal Tracking Databases (ATDs). The ATPS provides the information technology platform for security, electronic data transfer, and auditing processes.

Animal Tracking Database (ATD): Information systems, maintained by private entities or States, that will contain information related to the locations of a subject animal and the records of other animals that the subject animal came into contact with at each premises. ATDs will be integrated with the NAIS through the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS) to provide information to Animal Health Officials when responding to animal disease issues.

Commingle: Refers to events where animals are mixed or brought together with animals from other farms, ranches, or other production systems.

Country Code: A 3-digit numeric code representing the name of a country in accordance with ISO 3166.

Emerging Diseases: From time to time, diseases or disease syndromes are identified by livestock producers, veterinarians, and researchers. These diseases are not on the list of known foreign animal diseases. They may be diseases that have been present in the United States but not previously considered to be economically significant, or they may be new diseases whose origin is not known. Examples of emerging diseases include Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and Johne's Disease.

Epidemiologic: Of or related to the study of the causes, distribution, and control of disease, as well as the factors controlling the presence or absence of a disease or pathogen.

Group/Lot Identification Number (GIN): The number used to identify a unit of animals of the same species that is managed together throughout the pre-

harvest production chain. The GIN consists of a 7-character Premises Identification Number, a 6-digit representation of the date that the group or lot of animals was assembled and 2-digits (1-99) to reflect the count of groups assembled at the same premises on the same day (MMDDYY01).

Individual Animal Identification: A means of identification that differentiates one animal from another. Official individual animal identification uses APHIS-approved protocols.

Identification Methods: A means of identifying an animal, including eartags, biometrics, brands and brand inspection records, breed registry certificates, etc.

Interstate Movement: Movement that crosses State lines, regardless of ownership, at either shipping or receiving premises.

Intrastate Movement: Movement within a State that does not meet criteria for being interstate commerce.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization.

National Premises Information Repository: The database maintained by APHIS that stores information from each premises Registration System.

Non-producer Participant: A person or entity who engages in NAIS activity in a designated role/s where that role/s is not associated with a specific premises. Typical roles include USAIN Manager, AIN Distributor, Animal Health Official, Brand Inspection Entity, Diagnostic Laboratory, etc. Non-producer participants may provide data to the national identification database.

Official Identification Devices and Methods: Means of officially (approved by the APHIS Administrator) identifying an animal, or group of animals, including, but not limited to official tags, tattoos, and registered brands when accompanied by a certificate of inspection from a recognized brand inspection authority.

Officially Identified: When an official identification number is applied to an animal by means of an identification method or device approved by the APHIS Administrator for purposes related to official disease control programs or animal movements in intrastate, interstate, or international commerce.

Premises: A physical location that represents a unique and describable geographic entity where activity affecting the health and/or traceability of animals may occur. In cases involving non-contiguous properties, the producer/owner should consult with his/her State Animal Health Official or Area Veterinarian in Charge to determine whether there is a need for one or multiple premises numbers.

Premises Identification Number (PIN): A unique, 7-character identification code number assigned by a State or Federal animal health authority to a premises that is, in the judgment of the State or Federal animal health authority, a geographically distinct location from other livestock production units. The premises identification number is assigned permanently to the geophysical location.

Premises Number Allocator: The APHIS computer program that assigns PINs to a specific location through interfaces with Standardized or Compliant Premises Registration Systems.

Premises Registration Systems: The software programs or systems used by States and Tribes to register premises. Compliant premises registration systems meet NAIS data standards and communication security requirements. APHIS validates compliance or noncompliance.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID): An identification device that utilizes radio frequency technology. The RFID device includes eartags, bolus, implants (injections), and Tag attachments (transponders that work in concert with eartags).

Recognized Brand Authorities: State brand inspection agencies or other brand inspection organizations authorized either by a State or the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (USDA).

Standardized Premises Registration System: The Premises Registration System that APHIS makes available to all States and Tribes.

Tagging Services: Authorized tagging service providers are individuals who would come to the producers' premises to apply the AIN tags to the animals on behalf of the owners or persons having possession, care, or control of the animals, if the producers or owners prefer to have their animals tagged by someone else—in particular, if they do not have the capability of doing so themselves.

Tagging Sites: Tagging sites are authorized premises that would receive animals that were not identified with approved tags prior to leaving their premises, if the producer could not identify his/her animals. Individuals at the tagging site would apply the AIN tags to the animals on behalf of the owners or persons having possession, care, or control of the animals when the animals are brought to the site.

