

# Bird Industry Identification Working Group

Update and Recommendations

## Working Group Member Organizations

- United Egg Producers
- National Turkey Federation
- National Chicken Council
- Primary Breeders
- Duckling Council
- American Poultry Association
- North American Game Bird Association
- American Emu Association
- National Goose Council
- Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities
- Indiana, Ohio, Iowa Poultry Associations

## Goals of the Poultry ID Working Group

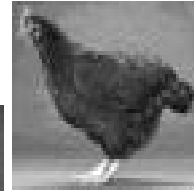
- Come to consensus regarding Bird Identification Standards for Poultry
- Produce Poultry Identification Subchapter of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
- Implement bird identification to fulfill NAIS

## Poultry ID Working Group Accomplishments to date

- Held 2 meetings (one face to face & one by Conference call)
- Decided on Two Chairs for the Working Group
  - Commercial (Alice Johnson & Michael Rybolt)
  - Noncommercial (Gary Fuchs and Murray McMurray)
- Formed Two Subcommittees
  - Group/lot Identification Subcommittee
  - Noncommercial Bird Subcommittee

## Commercial Birds

- Table-Egg Layers
  - 285 million laying hens (6,000 flocks)
  - Supportive of bird ID (group lot ID)
  - Premises ID is appropriate (all-in/all-out operations)
- Turkeys
  - 300 million meat-type turkeys
    - 50 slaughter plants
  - Supports Bird ID (group lot ID) and premises identification



## Commercial Birds

- Broilers
  - 8.3 billion meat-type chickens
    - 200 slaughter plants
  - Supports Bird ID (group lot ID) and premises identification
  - Lot ID can be maintained up to the processing plant



## Commercial Birds

- Primary Breeders

- Individual bird ID using wing bands with bar codes help keep track of bird pedigrees
- Lot ID is used for eggs moving to hatcheries



- Ratites

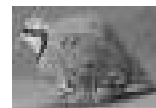
- Largely raised for meat and oil
- Currently use microchip for ID (e.g. in TX)
- Neck chains and leg bans are also used with individual ID



## Commercial Birds

- Game Fowl

- \$5 billion industry
- Represents one of the problem areas for bird ID
- Most registration is through the state wildlife departments
- Some are processed for meat
- Would like to be referred to as upland birds (pheasant, partridge, quail, and wild turkeys, geese and ducks)
  - Raised for release for hunting for food
  - GA and TX have own processing plants



## Commercial Birds

- Commercial Duck operations
  - 22 million ducks in the US
  - Have same ID needs as the broiler group
  - Flocks are maintained by lot ID (tracks from hatching to the chiller)
  - Use individual ID internally for pedigree breeder ducks



## Commercial Birds

- Commercial Goose operations
  - 95 % raised in 2 states (North and South Dakota and Montana)
  - Breeders are individually bar coded
  - Lot ID is used for the meat birds

## Non-Commercial Birds

- American Poultry Association
  - mainly exhibition birds
  - Hobbyists, not a profit venture mostly
  - Leg and wing bands are being used for ID
  - This group agrees with the concept
  - Must be cost effective
- Poultry Antiquities
  - Represent poultry species of which some may be heirloom breeds
  - Members own breeders, hobby birds, exhibition birds or may have small income producing operations
  - Some breeds are very old
  - About 50% of these birds do not leave the farm



## Poultry ID Working Group Issues

- Replacement of older males during breeding (“spiking”)
- How ID will affect bottom line
- Birds from two different hatcheries (that received ID at the hatcheries) but come together at a farm
- Accommodation during “backfilling” of laying houses
- Identification of chicks being sold via mail order
- Birds going to the veterinary clinics
- Insensitivity of government officials to bird owners

### Poultry ID Working Group Issues (cont.)

- Most birds are presently not identified
  - Poultry Antiquities
- No need for NAIS reinventing the wheel
  - NAIS to look at data already maintained at state and company levels
- Confidentiality
  - Would like NAIS to solicit congressional action to protect database from FOIA
- Difficult to maintain ID through the distribution system
- Small hatcheries do not use ID

### Poultry ID Working Group Issues (cont.)

- Issues with Ratites:
  - 500 out of 5000 farms are currently registered with NPIP
  - Ownership is diverse
  - Microchips are expensive (\$7 per chip)
  - Migration of microchip within the subcutis
  - Illegal movement from Canada and Mexico

## Poultry ID Working Group Issues (cont.) Live Bird Marketing System

- Multiple species
- Multiple ages
- Trace backs
- Tracking



## Poultry ID Working Group Tentative Recommendation

- Individual Animal Identification
  - Mainly for Non-commercial Poultry
- Country Code (3 numeric) 840 = USA
- 12 digit animal number
  
- Example: 840 002 134 567 892



First 3 characters are  
unique country  
code

Last 12 characters  
are unique  
animal number



## Animal Identification

- Individual animal identification is needed for tracking animals that are destined to be commingled with animals outside of their production system

## Poultry ID Working Group Tentative Recommendation (cont.)

- Group/Lot Identification
  - Mainly for Commercial Poultry
- Premises ID number
- Date the group was created
  - Example:



A23T567 103002

National Premises ID  
Number

Date the group/lot was  
established

## Poultry Identification Devices

- A variety of methods are used
- Must be permanent and contain the needed information to implement the plan.
- Methods include
  - Seamless leg bands
  - Wing bands
  - Tamper-proof crimp-on leg bands.
  - T-tags
  - Glued tags

## Breeding Poultry

- Breeding poultry that remain in one production system should not be required to have individual identification.
- Identification for management purposes is not a requirement of NAIS.
- Breeding poultry that is removed from the breeding farm should be considered in two ways:
  - 1) those that are marketed as a group into a processing program and
    - no need for individual identification
    - there should be recorded data for the disposition of the group that leave
  - 2) those that are sold live and introduced into a live market arrangement that involves the commingling of poultry
    - Will require individual identification and necessary recording of information as prescribed by this program.
    - All premises involved in this type of production system will be identified and registered

## Poultry Produced for Meat

- Poultry produced specifically for meat production and remain in a single production unit have no need for individual identification.
- Poultry destined for live markets where poultry will be commingled will be required to be individually identified in accordance with the guidelines established by this program. The data associated with the marketing of the identified bird will be recorded as determined by this program.

## Day old poultry from individuals or marketing organizations

- Those involved in this marketing system should receive poultry with some type of identification document.
- Poultry received from NPIP participating hatcheries should not be commingled with poultry from other sources or with adult poultry.
  - Such commingling would create the need for individual identification.
- Maintain sales records indication the physical address that the non-identified poultry was sold to
- All premises involved in the day-old poultry marketing system will be identified and registered.

## Private farms where there is no commingling of poultry

- No individual ID needed
- All premises will be identified and registered

## Production units where commingling occurs external to the unit

- Individual poultry from production system exposed to poultry outside of their system will be individually identified using the method to be determined
- Shows, fairs, exhibitions, auctions or other marketing events, and any other occurrence where poultry from more than one source are commingled.
- All premises involved in this type of production system will be identified and registered.
- This premises information should include all of the types of events where the poultry are commingled

## Game Birds

- Game birds produced and “marketed” within one production system should have no need for individual identification within this program.
- Question raised:
  - What about the dispersion of birds into the wild and the impact on this program?

## Chain of responsibility

- Seller will ensure all identification requirements are met on the poultry presented for sale.
- Persons or organizations presenting poultry for exhibition or similar situation must present to the management of the exhibition poultry that have been identified in accordance with the NAIS standards for poultry.
- It will be the responsibility of the show, fair, auction etc. to report to the national database.
- **The incorporation of all necessary NAIS components will be added as we determine the items necessary for proper individual identification of poultry**

## Reporting System

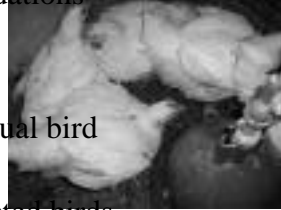
- Use as many existing recording and reporting options as possible that meet the needs of the NAIS rather than creating new ones.
- Continue to monitor the progress of reporting methods required
- Evaluate methods used by other species to participate in the development of a uniform system

## Financial Support

- Significant costs will be incurred by poultry producers for the implementation of this program
- Financial support to producers as well as some supporting infrastructure will be necessary

## Poultry Identification Study Underway

- Evaluate ID systems and make recommendations
  - Fastack tag and a glue tag
- Address labor, cost, and record keeping
- Determine when premises, lot, and individual bird ID is preferable
- Evaluate how ID can assist in tracing infected birds within the LBMS
- Observe tagged birds in the LBMs and documenting durability and readability
- Determine applicability and cost effectiveness of RFID technology to an avian tagging system









## Summary

- What the Poultry Producers Can Gain from an Identification System :
  - Control outbreaks of contagious foreign diseases
  - Protect animal and human health (Zoonotic diseases)
  - Address bio-terrorism treat
- A system for tracking diseases to minimize risks of transmission
  - Provide a 48 hour traceability
  - Insure free intrastate and interstate movement
- A system that international community will recognize as safe and secure
  - Promote international trade
- Lots of work for the working group to do
- Continue to work together to seek answers
- The non-commercial and commercial industry must decide its own plan