National Animal Identification System
Cattle Industry Work Group Report
"Executive Summary"
09/06/2006

Guiding Principles:

☐ RFID ear tags will be the technology used to individually identify cattle.

☐ Producer's data/information must be kept confidential and exempt from current Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements including a FOIA exemption to block data from passing among varied governmental agencies.

☐ Only approved animal health authorities at the federal and state level will have access to the NAIS information system.

☐ Only information essential to the enhancement of animal disease surveillance and monitoring shall be stored in any state or federally managed database under the NAIS.

☐ Events that will trigger access to the data system must be characterized as a regulatory need to accommodate disease traceback / traceforward under any one of the following:
   ■ A confirmed positive test for foreign animal diseases.
   ■ The declaration of an animal disease emergency by the Secretary of Agriculture or state animal health official.
   ■ Program diseases (Brucellosis, TB,) traceback to determine the origin of infection.

☐ Producers will not bear the full cost of establishing or maintaining the national animal identification system.

☐ USDA/ APHIS is encouraged to thoroughly investigate opportunities for integrating State Brand Inspection with the NAIS.

☐ Implementation of the NAIS will be directed by the establishment of Uniform Methods and Rules.

☐ An extensive industry education effort must be jointly organized and implemented by State, Tribal and Federal health authorities, livestock organizations, industry's quality assurance programs, allied industry, university extension, etc.

Premises Allocation System:

☐ All premises that manage and/or hold cattle are to be identified through the State animal health authority to achieve a standard national premises system.
  ■ USDA Standardized Premises Registration System
  ■ State "Compliant" System

Individual Animal Identification:

☐ Three basic events trigger the need for official individual animal identification:
  ■ Change of ownership
  ■ Interstate movement
  ■ Multiple owners commingling their cattle.

☐ When individual identification is required, the owner / seller is the person ultimately responsible for applying the official RFID tag **"TO THE LEFT EAR"** of all animals.
  ■ This responsibility may be accomplished prior to commingling with other owners cattle:
    • Where cattle reside prior to change of ownership.
    • Intermediate tagging station.
    • First point of concentration.

☐ Producers are encouraged to identify calves at birth or at the earliest date possible.
  ■ Reported birth dates to a NAIS database will support animal disease issues when the age of an animal is needed.
  ■ When the precise date of birth is not known, the approximate birth date within 2 to 3 months is recommended.

☐ Producers are encouraged to utilize and record a second visible tag as a matter of "best management practices".
  ■ This additional visible tag could enhance day-to-day management needs and could serve as a cross reference in the event of a lost official tag.

☐ Animals of origin destined for custom slaughter for personal use need not be officially identified.

☐ NAIS Implementation: "Ultimate World"
  ■ Animals missing official ID are to be retagged.

☐ NAIS Implementation: "Real World"
  ■ The tolerance level and protocol for "no reads" on cattle moving through commingled concentration points should be established following tabulation of the results from the NAIS pilot tests.

☐ The Cattle Working Group encourages USDA / APHIS to expand the current field trial with the Kansas Animal Health Department / KSU Animal Identification Knowledge Laboratory to:
  ■ Provide opportunity to all animal identification technology (RFID) manufacturers to submit RFID readers and EID devices for performance evaluation.

- ■ Objectively evaluate current reader and RFID tag technologies in various environments reflective of market-chain industry conditions.

Tag Distribution:

- ☐ Official RFID ear tags may become available through any qualified person, group or organization that becomes certified by USDA to meet the requirements established for official USAIN Managers or USAIN Tag Distributors. (USAIN - US Animal Identification Number)
  - ■ Producers should be able to purchase tags through the retail sector, phone-in or online ordering with direct drop shipments to farm / ranch.

- ☐ The Animal Identification Number (AIN) and subsequent AIN Manager Distribution System as proposed in the NAIS should be implemented immediately with the administration and oversight conducted by USDA/APHIS/VS.

Reporting Cattle Movements:

- ☐ Three basic events trigger the need for reporting cattle movements to a NAIS Database:
  - ■ Change of ownership
  - ■ Interstate movement
  - ■ Multiple owners commingling their cattle.

- ☐ Reportable commingling includes, but is not limited to:
- ☐ Commercial trucks or trailers
  - ■ Joint grazing agreements
  - ■ Livestock markets
  - ■ Exhibitions
  - ■ Rodeos
  - ■ Etc.

- ☐ Forms of reporting may include:
  - ■ Electronic Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)
  - ■ Electronic or hardcopy invoice.
  - ■ Other methods as deemed appropriate by State animal health authorities.

- ☐ Private enterprise providers are expected to have a role in supporting the data collection and information system infrastructure.
  Oversight authority and responsibility for the tracking capabilities of the NAIS information system, remains vested with USDA/APHIS, Tribal Nations, state animal health authorities, state animal identification agencies, or other entities authorized by state law.

- ☐ The receiving premises, or person responsible for the animals at the receiving premises, is responsible for reporting animal movements onto the premises.

- ☐ Required movement events are to be reported within 24 hours or the close of the next business day.

□ Confirmation shall be available to both the seller and buyer involved that the reported movement has been entered into a National Animal Identification Database.

□ In private treaty transactions, where a marketing agent may not exist, the seller is encouraged to also report such movement events under the NAIS.
  ■ If the receiving premises fail to report, this self-policing crosscheck will:
    • Help maintain the integrity of the NAIS.
    • Protect against liability of not knowing the final destination premises when cattle are sold.
    • Verify that the reports are accurate and complete.

□ Officially identified animals that die on-farm or ranch must be reported.

□ Officially identified farm or ranch "deads" that go to rendering must be reported.
  ■ The render, being the receiving premises is responsible for reporting.
  ■ Producers may anticipate animals of origin moved direct to rendering may be required to be officially identified as a condition of acceptance.

□ Slaughter inspection condemnations of officially identified animals moved to rendering need to be reported.
  ■ It is the responsibility of the slaughter plant and FSIS inspectors to maintain the official ID of the animal.
  ■ It is the responsibility of the render to report the movement.
  ■ Packing plant managers, FSIS personnel, and rendering plant managers will need to be made aware of their respective responsibilities.

Import / Export Identification and Reporting:
□ All cattle exported from the U.S. must be identified with an official NAIS RFID tag prior to being loaded for export, with the following information reported to a NAIS Database:
  ■ The official tag number
  ■ Current farm / ranch premises number
  ■ The premises number of the export facility
  ■ Final destination

□ All cattle imported into the U.S. must:
  ■ Be identified with an official individual number of the country of origin and/or official RFID tag of the country of origin.
  ■ Be accompanied by a USDA/APHIS approved International Certificate of Identification.
  ■ Reported to a NAIS Database.

□ If an animal or group of cattle do not contain any official individual RFID from the country of origin, the animal(s) shall:
  ■ Be off-loaded at the U.S. border, or final destination location, and be individually identified with an official NAIS RFID tag.
  ■ Be reported to a NAIS Database.

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