

Report of the Equine Species Working Group

Amy W. Mann
American Horse Council
Washington, DC



American Horse Council

Equine Identification Task Force

- ❑ Established: AHC Convention – October 2003
 - ❑ Membership: 25 Horse Industry Organizations
 - ❑ Goals: Develop a framework for a national equine identification plan.
 - ❑ Meetings: Los Angeles – January 16th
Dallas – March 18th
 - ❑ Work Groups: Horse ID & Technology
Premises ID
Movement & Tracking
Communications
 - ❑ Evolves Into: USAIP Equine Species Work Group
-

American Horse Council

Equine Identification Task Force

- American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Endurance Ride Conference, American Miniature Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association, American Saddlebred Horse Association, Arabian Horse Association, Back Country Horsemen of America, California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Harness Tracks of America, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Mersant International Ltd., NA/WPN - Dutch Warmblood Studbook in North America, National Cutting Horse Association, National Reining Horse Association, National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Palomino Horse Breeders of America, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association, The Jockey Club, National HBPA, Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, US Trotting Association, US Equestrian Federation, Western Stock Show Association.

Questions

- Why is a national equine identification plan needed?
 - What are the benefits of a national equine ID system?
 - Who should develop the national ID plan for horses?
 - Which horses need to be identified?
 - How should horses be identified?
 - Which premises should be identified?
 - What movements need to be tracked and recorded?
 - Where should the identification be recorded?
 - What information is recorded in the databases?
 - How are movements tracked for 48 hour trace-back?
 - Should the UELN be utilized as the AIN?
 - What are the costs?
 - Who pays?
-

1. Why is a national equine identification plan needed?

- ❑ Control outbreak of contagious foreign diseases.
 - ❑ Protect animal and human health.
 - ❑ Address the threat of bio-terrorism.
 - ❑ Protect food and fiber livestock industries.
 - ❑ Maintain a stable economic environment.
 - ❑ Provide a 48 hour trace-back.
 - ❑ Insure freedom of movement of horses.
 - ❑ Sustain the ecological environment.
-

2. Are there benefits to a national equine ID system?

- ❑ Reduce potential effect and enhance control of equine disease outbreaks.
 - ❑ Maintain equine commerce and movement of horses in the case of a disease outbreak.
 - ❑ Assist equestrian events in ensuring a healthy environment for participating horses.
 - ❑ Expedite recovery and identification of horses in case of loss due to natural disaster, theft or accident.
 - ❑ Facilitate import and export of equines.
 - ❑ Uphold the horse industry as a responsible member of the livestock community.
 - ❑ Enhance the permanent identification of horses and assist in tracking ownership.
-

3. Who should develop the national ID plan for horses?

- Equine Species Work Group
- American Horse Council Equine Identification Task Force
- Representatives of horse industry organizations

Bottom-line:

The US Horse Industry

4. Which horses need to be identified?

- Horses at risk of contracting or transmitting contagious diseases.
 - Initially, horses involved in interstate commerce.
 - Secondarily, horses at equestrian events, breeding farms, training centers and boarding stables.
 - Eventually, all horses???
 - What about the isolated horse that never leaves the premises?
-

5. How should horses be identified?

- Capitalize on existing horse identification.
 - Breed Registration
 - DNA/Parentage Verification
 - Markings
 - Photos
 - Brands
 - Tattoos
 - 8, 10 & 12 Character Microchips
 - New Radio Frequency Identification Devices
-

6. Which premises should be identified?

- Initially, facilities with more than X? horses.
 - Breeding Farms
 - Racetracks
 - Fairgrounds
 - Horse Auctions
 - Training Centers
 - Quarantine Facilities
 - Riding & Boarding Stables
 - Equine Research Centers
 - Rodeo Arenas
 - Horse Show Grounds
 - Eventually, all premises where horses are maintained???
-

7. What movements need to be tracked and recorded?

- Interstate Commerce
 - When Health Certificates are required.
 - When horses go to:
 - Racetracks
 - Horse Shows
 - Horse Auctions
 - Trail Rides
 - Rodeos
 - Arena Events
 - Breeding
 - Veterinary Clinics
-

8. Where should the identification information be kept?

- National USAIP Database
 - Centralized Equine Database
 - Appropriate Breed Registry
 - Performance Databases
 - Non-registered Horse Registry
-

9. What information is recorded in the databases?

- National USAIP Database
 - Animal Identification Number
 - Premise Identification Number
 - Date
 - Centralize Equine Database
 - Animal Identification Number
 - Premise Identification Number
 - Dates
 - Breed
 - Horse Name
 - Identification Information
 - Ownership Information
 - Breed Registry
 - Animal Identification Number
 - Information Required by the Breed Registry
-

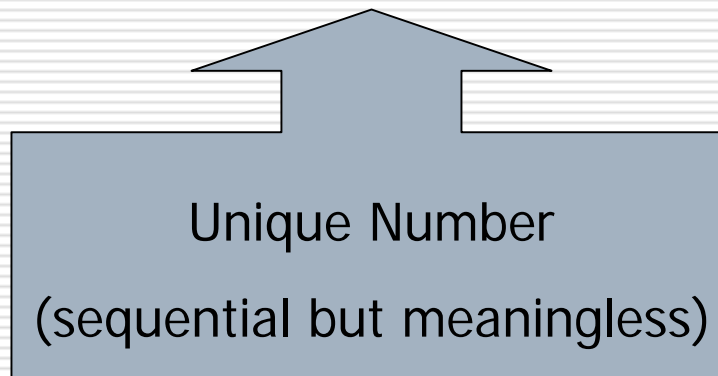
10. How do we track movements to meet 48 hour trace-back need?

- Radio Frequency ID Devices
 - Hand Held Readers
 - Scanning Chutes & Gates
 - Data Entry
 - On-line uploads to national & central databases
 - Hard copy log books
 - Internet
 - e-Mail
 - Fax
 - Phone
-
- What is the time frame? 48 hours – 30 days
 - Who is responsible? Premises manager, event manager and/or horse owner
-

What number should be use? USAIN (US Animal Identification Number) or

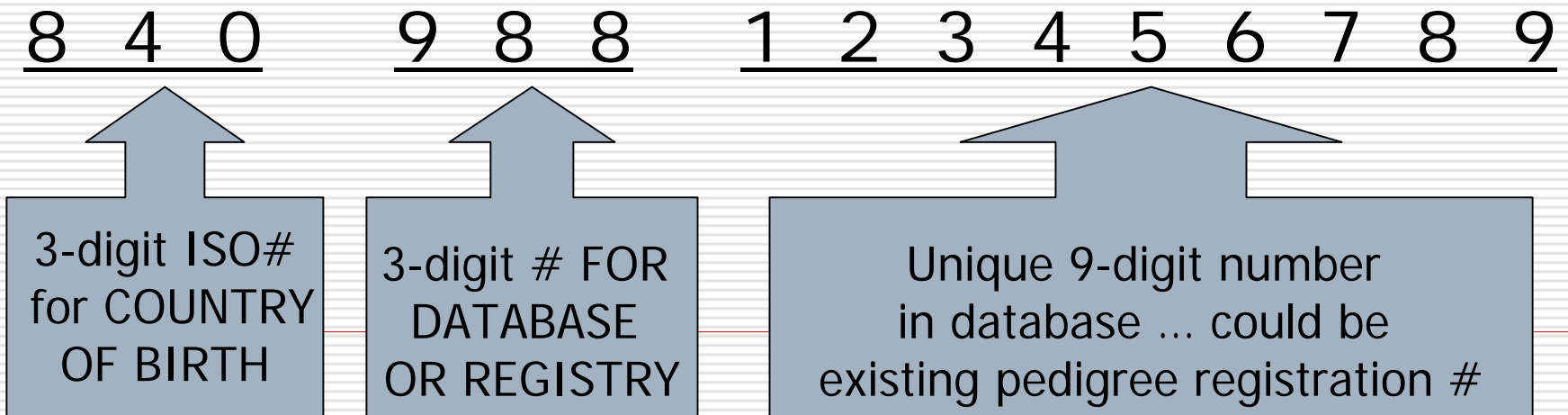
- The USAIN is an ISO standard 15 digit number:

□ 8 4 0 _____ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



the Universal Equine Lifetime Number (UELN)?

- ❑ **ONE** number per horse for its lifetime
- ❑ Compatible with international numbers for pedigree registries and other horse databases around the world, including Canada.
- ❑ Could protect the integrity of existing pedigree registry registration numbers.



11. What are the costs?

- ❑ Establishing the National Equine ID System.
 - ❑ Developing a Centralized Equine ID Database.
 - ❑ Setting up the Equine ID Number Manager.
 - ❑ Selecting or designing the RF ID Device.
 - ❑ Creating the network for horse identification.
 - ❑ Starting a registry for non-registered equines.
 - ❑ Distributing and installing readers and scanners.
 - ❑ Instigating the processes to track and record equine movements.
-

Who Pays?

- Congress
 - US Department of Agriculture
 - American Horse Council
 - AHC Member Organization
 - Microchip & RFID Companies
 - Premises Owners
 - Breed Registries
 - Breeders
 - The Horse Owners**
-

Next Steps

- ❑ Work Groups on Horse ID & Technology, Premises ID, Movement & Tracking, and Communications continue to address agendas.
 - ❑ Continue to communicate and cooperate with USDA and Congress to insure horse industry involvement.
 - ❑ Participate in the ID EXPO in Chicago May 17-20.
 - ❑ Develop pilot project proposals (May 25)
 - ❑ Next Species Working Group Meeting: June 21-22, 2004 in Dallas/Ft. Worth
-

Summary

- ❑ Lots of Work to do
- ❑ Continue to seek answers
- ❑ Industry must decide its own plan



