

National Animal Identification System

Background



The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a program designed to quickly respond and effectively control the impact of domestic or foreign animal diseases. Many diseases including Brucellosis, Foot and Mouth Disease, Pseudorabies, Scrapie,

Tuberculosis, and Vesicular Stomatitis can severely impact livestock owners, industry, and consumers. Therefore, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), states, tribal nations, and agricultural industries are continuing the development of an initiative to identify certain animals and track their movements as they enter commerce. USDA is advised by various Species Working Groups (SWG) comprised of producers and animal health officials that develop plans for cattle, sheep, goats, bison, swine, poultry, horses, llamas, alpacas, deer, and elk. The NAIS is designed to substantially improve the current fragmented animal health systems and provide animal health officials with effective tools to respond to disease situations.

The main components of NAIS are:

- Identification of properties (**premises identification**) involved in animal agriculture
- Unique **animal identification** or groups/lot identification of animals involved in commerce
- Tracking certain **animal movements** between premises

USDA announced the following benchmarks for voluntary participation:

January 2007	25% premises registered
January 2008	70% premises registered
	40% animals identified (cattle & sheep)
January 2009	100% premises registered
	60% animals identified <1 year have complete movement data (cattle & sheep)

Premises Identification

Premises identification is not a new concept for animal agriculture. Animal health agencies have issued premises identification numbers for many years to manage animal health programs, such as tracking interstate animal movements, matching laboratory samples to a premises, and helping identify premises infected or exposed to diseases (i.e., Brucellosis, Exotic Newcastle). Previous state premises systems used different numbering criteria that allowed for duplicate numbers or the movement of a premises number to a different location.



The new National Premises Identification System will provide national guidelines to issue these numbers. Under the NAIS plan, the USDA has certified the California Department of Food and Agriculture

(CDFA) to issue National Premises Identification Numbers (PIN). The PIN represents a physical location or property and it is needed to obtain official identification devices (e.g., ear tags) and to report certain events. Examples of premises include: veterinary clinics, ranches, farms, auction markets, fairs and locations involved in animal agriculture.

PIN =

Seven character unique identifier associated with a LOCATION

Example: ABC123K

The premises identification number remains with the location even if ownership changes. Although a few states (i.e., Wisconsin and Indiana) have legislated mandatory premises identification, this program is voluntary in California. To date, CDFA has issued about 4,000 premises numbers. Nationwide, USDA has issued over 349,000 PINs.

Animal Identification

The USDA has recognized a 15-digit Animal Identification Number (AIN) and a 13-character Group-Lot Identification Number (GIN) for use in all official programs. Other official numbering systems for programs, such as Scrapie and Brucellosis can still be used, but eventually will be transitioned to the AIN system.

USDA maintains “technology neutrality” when it comes to identification devices; however, the Cattle Species Working Group has recommended visible Electronic Identification as the preferred identification method for cattle. This recommendation includes adoption of a compliant tamper-proof Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag technology in the left ear. While brands will supplement cattle identification, they are only used in 17 states. Other SWGs are considering different types of identification, such as implantable microchips for horses.



Does every event need to be reported for NAIS? No, the SWGs will provide USDA with guidelines for reportable events. For cattle, the SWG recommended that movements to auction markets be reported and the destination facility is responsible for reporting the movement. It is expected that NAIS implementation will be different across species and across the type and size of the operation.

A minimal amount of information is collected for NAIS; however, producers can leverage this information in their production management systems. For instance, a dairy calf grower or horse racetrack could enhance their inventory management using automated data collection. Technology that may enhance the collection of information, such as RFID readers will be encouraged, but not required for participation.

Several USDA-funded pilot projects across the nation are exploring different ways to identify animals, collect data, and report information. CDFA is working with academia and producers to evaluate electronic identification in cattle, sheep, and horses.

Many questions still need to be answered about NAIS. It is imperative to continue NAIS development to ensure the health of agriculture is not compromised and animal agriculture continues to be a viable sector of the economy.

AIN =	Fifteen digit unique identifier associated with an <u>ANIMAL</u> Example: 840 123456789012345
GIN =	Thirteen character identifier associated with a group/lot of <u>ANIMALS</u>

Animal Tracking

This is the most complex aspect of the program, requiring participants to collect and report information for certain events. The following information will be required for reportable events:

1. Animal or group/lot identification number
2. Premises identification number
3. Event date
4. Event type (e.g., move in, lost tag, etc.)

Examples of reportable events include animals entering the US from foreign countries, animals being taken to auction markets or moving interstate. It is expected that multiple avenues will be developed to report events and that the information can be submitted by the producer or on behalf of the producer by a service provider.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

USDA and CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Premises & Animal Identification	916-657-4789
Sacramento (Main Office)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
USDA Vet Services - Area Office	916-857-6170

Obtain a Premises Identification Number at:

www.californiaid.org

or by calling 866-325-5681

Information Resources

www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais

www.usda.gov/nais

www.animalagriculture.org

animalscience.ucdavis.edu/animalID/