

EQUINE IDENTIFICATION IN USA



**A M E R I C A N
H O R S E C O U N C I L**

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**American Horse Council
Equine Species Working Group**

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NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS)

- USDA developing animal ID system for 20+ years
- 2001 Hoof and Mouth outbreak in UK provides impetus – 10 million animals & \$13 billion
- US Animal Identification Plan - October 2003
- Congress proposes six animal ID bills in 2004 and Senate passes “Sense of the Senate”
- USDA begins implementation of NAIS in 2004 with premises identification and 16 national listening sessions

MISSION & PURPOSE

- 2006 - Assign a 7-digit code to identify all premises where livestock are located
- 2007 - Attach a 15-character animal identification number (AIN) to all livestock
- 2009 - Track all movements of livestock through reporting of premises, AIN and date to USDA database
- 2010 - Establish 48-hour trace-back capabilities in the case of an outbreak of a deadly animal disease

WHY HAVE A NATIONAL EQUINE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM?

- Protect our horses
- Control outbreaks of contagious foreign diseases
- Protect human health
- Address the threat of bio-terrorism
- Identify lost, stolen or displaced horses
- Maintain a stable economic environment
- Ensure freedom of movement and export of horses
- Be a responsible member of the livestock industry

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL HORSE ID TASK FORCE

- Formed at October 2003 AHC Convention
- Develop recommendations for the national equine identification program
- 35 Organizations and Animal Health Officials
- USDA Equine Species Working Group

EQUINE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

Topics for Research & Recommendations

- Horse Identification Technologies
- Premises Identification
- Recording Movement (48-Hour Trace-back)
- Communications/Education/Website
- Proof of Concept Pilot Project
- Breed Registries/Central Equine Database

RECOMMENDATIONS TO USDA

- Equine industry in control
- Compatible internationally
- Preserve existing horse ID systems
- Voluntary participation to start
- Identification begins with Veterinary health inspections
- Affordable for owners and stakeholders
- Microchips as primary method of identification
- Transfers of ownership recorded with appropriate breed registry and national database

HORSE IDENTIFICATION

Incorporate with Existing Horse Identification

- Breed Registration
- DNA/Parentage Verification
- Markings
- Tattoos
- Photos
- Brands
- Microchips

HORSE IDENTIFICATION

EWSG Recommendations

- ISO 11784/11785 RFID 15-character microchip
- Animal Identification Number
- Compatible Internationally
- Unique Equine Life Number (UELN)
- RFID Scanners and Readers for Both Frequencies
- Optional: Bio-Thermal

WHICH PREMISES SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED?

- Racetracks
- Horse Shows
- Auctions and Sales
- Fairgrounds
- Breeding Farms
- Boarding Facilities
- Training Facilities
- Public and Private Stables
- Rodeo Arenas
- National or State Parks
- Universities
- Diagnostic Laboratories
- Equine Clinics
- Ports of Entry & Exit
- Quarantine Facilities
- Dude Ranches

PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

- All 50 states and five tribes fully operational with premises registration systems
- As of Mid-October 2005, over 133,000 premises registered
- Visit the NAIS Website for links to State premises registration systems: www.usda.gov/nais

FUTURE FOCUS OF ESWG

Determine ID Technology Performance Standards

Pilot Projects to Implement Movement Tracking

- Which horses must be included in a tracking system?
- How to automate identification process?
- Who reports the data?
- To whom does the data get reported?

Privatization of the National Animal ID Database

- National Cattlemen's Proposal
- Cooperation and participation of all species stakeholders

COMMUNICATION & OWNER EDUCATION

Equine Species Working Group Website

www.horsecouncil.org

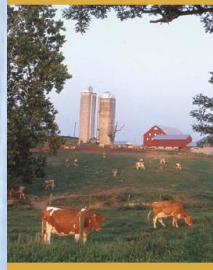
- Summary of NAIS and List of Benefits
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Press Releases
- White Papers on microchips & equine health
- ESWG Recommendations
- Links


USDA NAIS MATERIAL


United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Ad No. 1797

Premises Identification

The First Step Toward a National Animal Identification System




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The National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

Why Animal Identification?
Why Now? What First?



NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Factsheet

National Animal Identification System
May 2006

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a national program intended to identify animals and track them as they move from owner to owner, to slaughter, etc., in order to help the livestock trace their movement of origin.

The system is being developed for all species that would benefit from rapid coordination in the event of a disease outbreak. Currently, working groups consist of industry and government representatives are developing plans for cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, poultry (layer, meat, etc.), horses, and exotics.

Already, many of these species can be identified through some sort of identification system, but these systems are not accurate across the country. Having an animal's movement can therefore be a time-consuming endeavor during a disease investigation, especially if the animal has moved across State lines.

In April 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the framework for implementing the NAIS—an animal identification and tracking system that will be used in all States and that will ensure under several conditions. When fully completed, the system will be capable of tracking the animal or group of animals back to the herd or grower who is the most likely source of infection. It will allow the user to trace potentially exposed animals that were removed out from the herd or grower. The source animal (herd) officials can identify infected and exposed animals and animals, the source they can contain the disease and prevent spread.

The NAIS will enhance U.S. efforts to respond to intentionally or unintentionally introduced outbreaks of animal diseases more quickly and effectively. USDA's long-term goal is to establish a system that can identify all animals and animals that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery.

The first step in implementing the NAIS is identifying and registering premises that house animals. Such premises include locations where livestock and poultry are managed, housed, or shipped. Premises where animals are housed in the lay to farmers, auction, and show-officers, epidemiologic investigations and disease control efforts.

USDA anticipates that all States will have the capability to register premises according to the national standards by 2010. Officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are currently training State officials on how to use a standardized computer registration system. USDA is also releasing information regarding species that States or other State interested agencies can use to ensure that those species meet the national standards. In addition, USDA is working with States and industry to evaluate the status of the NAIS.

As premises are registered, the first step of the NAIS—animal identification—will be tracked into the system. Under Animal Identification Numbers (AINs) will be issued to individually identified animals. In the case of animals that move in groups through


United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Ad No. 1797

**Our animals.
Our livelihood.
Our future.**

- Pamphlets
- Fact Sheets
- NAIS Posters

To obtain copies and more information,
please contact the AHC at:

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