

## National Animal Identification System Hawai'i NAIS Program

### For more information:

[animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais)  
[hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/lhc/HAPIS](http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/lhc/HAPIS)  
[animalscience.ucdavis.edu/AnimalID](http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/AnimalID)  
[imic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm](http://imic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm)

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# National Animal Identification System

## Phase 3: Animal Tracing



## Cooperative Extension Service

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

## What Is NAIS?

The National Animal Identification System is part of an ongoing effort to safeguard U.S. livestock health. NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events. The NAIS program—a voluntary state-federal-industry partnership—helps protect U.S. livestock and poultry from disease spread, maintain consumer confidence in our food supply, and retain access to domestic and foreign markets. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of NAIS nationally in 2004.

Participation in NAIS is voluntary in the state of Hawai'i, and the USDA is NOT requiring participation in the program at the federal level and currently has no plans or mechanisms in place to make participation mandatory. Producers who choose to participate in NAIS become part of a national animal disease response network, which ensures that they will receive timely information and assistance to protect their animals against disease threats. This gives producers more control over the health of their animals in a disease situation and facilitates rapid response.

NAIS has been initiated in Hawai'i through its first component, premises identification. Premises information ensures that producers will be notified quickly when a disease event might impact their area or the species of animals they manage. By voluntarily registering their premises and providing contact information, producers will ensure that they receive the information they need—when they need it most—to protect their animals and their investment.

### Program objectives

- Rapidly contain and eradicate animal disease events.
- Focus the scope of response to affected areas or herds.
- Trace disease to source within 48 hours.

### Program components

#### Phase 1—*Premises identification:*

Account for each physical location that handles livestock.

#### Phase 2—*Animal identification:*

Label each individual or group of livestock with a unique number.

#### Phase 3—*Animal tracing:*

Identify all animals that have been in contact with a disease.

The effectiveness of NAIS as a disease response network depends largely on producer involvement. Animal owners who are interested in the voluntary NAIS may participate in some of the three components separately or in all components when the program is fully operational.



**Premises identification is the foundation of the National Animal Identification System.**

# National Animal Identification System—Animal Tracing

## Animal tracing overview

When an outbreak occurs, three essential questions must be answered as quickly as possible:

- Where has the infected animal been?
- What other animals have been exposed?
- What additional premises and animals are at risk of exposure?

The final NAIS component, animal tracing, is under development by states and the private sector. You will be able to choose an animal tracking database (owned and operated by private industry groups or state agencies) and report certain animal movements that might pose a significant risk of disease transmission. The animal tracking databases provide timely, accurate records that show where your animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them.

## How does animal tracing work?

The animal tracing component, as are the premises registration and animal identification components, is voluntary. Producers who have registered their premises and use animal identification may select the animal tracking database of their choice. Producers or livestock managers report animal movements to database operators. Integration and use of all three components will make it easier for producers, states, industry, and USDA to determine the scope of an animal disease event and locate affected animals. Take the first step and register your premises by visiting:

<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/lcd/HAPIS>



Animal identification is an essential component of effective animal tracing.

## Who maintains animal tracking databases?

The voluntary animal tracing component of the NAIS is a public-private partnership. Both industry—through private systems—and states operate and maintain animal tracking databases (ATDs), which contain the animal location and movement records that producers report to help safeguard animal health. On the federal side, USDA operates a portal system that will enable animal health officials to submit requests for information to the administrators of the ATDs when investigating an animal disease event.

## When would animal tracing be used?

The process of animal health officials accessing NAIS databases is known as the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS). State and federal animal health officials will use the system only in the following situations:

- an indication (suspect, presumptive positive, etc.) or confirmed positive test of a foreign animal disease
- an animal disease emergency as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and/or state departments of agriculture
- a need to conduct a traceback/traceforward to determine the origin of infection for a program disease (brucellosis, tuberculosis, etc.).

If USDA needs animal movement and location information to respond to an animal disease issue, they will request the data from the administrators of the private or state databases only for animals involved in the disease of concern. Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from public disclosure.

## What information is used?

Under NAIS, only minimum information is necessary to trace animals effectively:

- NAIS premises identification number
- animal or group identification number
- date of the event
- the event itself (move-in or move-out).

Other animal-specific data (age, species, sex, etc.) that can support the NAIS in traceback situations are also standardized but are not necessary for participation.

## Which movements are reported?

Since the NAIS is concerned with animal health relative to animal diseases, those movements carrying a high risk of disease transmission will be the primary focus of tracing efforts. For example:

- sale and transfer of an animal from birth premises to another operation
- participation of animals at regional or national exhibitions or sporting events
- sale of animals through a public market or auction.

It is not the intent of the NAIS to record all animal movements. For example, the following are NOT reportable animal movement events:

- riding on a trail ride with a neighbor
- animals straying off a premises
- moving livestock between pastures within your operation.

Animals marketed commercially often come into contact with others from different areas and may be dispersed again. This commingling and subsequent movement often presents situations where contagious diseases can spread easily and far. These are the situations that are the main focus of the NAIS.

## Where can I find more information?

The USDA NAIS website ([usda.gov/nais](http://usda.gov/nais)) has the complete NAIS User Guide v2.0 and a list of several NAIS-compliant animal tracking databases. USDA encourages feedback on the NAIS and receives comments through its website. Please refer to the back of this brochure for websites and contacts for more information.