

National Animal Identification System Hawai'i NAIS Program

For more information:

animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais
hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/ldc/HAPIS
animalscience.ucdavis.edu/AnimalID
imic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm

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National Animal Identification System

Phase 2: Animal Identification



Cooperative Extension Service

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

What Is NAIS?

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—intends to help 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 USDA is NOT requiring participation in the program at the federal level and 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 tracking*: Identify all animals that have been in contact with a diseased individual.



National Animal Identification System—Animal Identification

Animal identification 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?

Animal identification is a key component in answering these questions, which are critical in determining the size and scope of a disease outbreak. The time it takes to contain and control or eradicate the disease is a primary factor that determines the economic losses and other social harms associated with the situation (for example, effects on agro-tourism, loss of market accessibility, impacts on a niche market, loss of genetics/bloodlines, etc.). Premises and animal identification together make rapid assessment and response to a disease possible.

What is animal identification?

Animal identification is the second component of the voluntary NAIS. Only animals that enter commerce or commingle with animals at other premises (e.g., sale yards, state or national exhibits/shows) would be identified. Whether individual or group/lot, animal identification provides producers with a uniform numbering system for identifying their animals. The individual Animal Identification Number (AIN) is a unique 15-digit number and stays with the animal for its lifetime. This number links the animal to its premises of origin; when

combined with animal tracing, the AIN also links the animal to each premises/location that has been reported for it. The Group/lot Identification Number (GIN) is a 15-character alpha-numeric code consisting of the seven-character Premises Identification Number, the date that the group or lot of animals was assembled, and a two-digit number to reflect the count of groups assembled at the same premises on the same day (starting with 01). An animal removed from the group, however, should be identified individually if it will be making reportable movements. Since the GIN is “self-generated” by the producer (i.e., it is not assigned by USDA), the GIN of each group is maintained at the premises by the producer in his or her management records. If the producer chooses, animal identification methods used in NAIS can also be used for other, non-NAIS purposes. For example, animal identification can be a valuable tool for animal management, genetic improvement, and marketing opportunities.

How can I purchase official Animal Identification Number (AIN) devices?

First, determine if the type of devices you prefer are available. USDA allocates AINs to manufacturers and authorizes them to produce official identification devices or technologies. To obtain AIN devices, you will need to have a Premises Identification Number (PIN). You can then contact an authorized AIN device manufacturer for the AIN device managers and resellers in your area. USDA



An example of one type of animal eartag with an individual AIN (USDA photo).

maintains a list of authorized AIN device manufacturers and the species they serve on the official NAIS website (www.usda.gov/nais). When you purchase the devices, you will provide your Premises Identification Number. When the PIN is confirmed to be correct, retailers will ship or deliver the AIN devices to you. For more information on emerging identification systems and a comparison of these technologies, see the University of California Cooperative Extension Service fact sheets at <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/AnimalID/FactSheets/index.htm>.

Text for this brochure was taken or adapted largely from the USDA Draft NAIS User Guide published November 2006. The Draft NAIS User Guide replaces all preceding NAIS documentation and is available for review at www.usda.gov/nais.

What does animal identification cost?

Some issues, including cost, can only be addressed sequentially as the NAIS is developed and more fully implemented. The answer to cost questions will depend on the choices not yet made by producers themselves. Costs born by participants depend on species, the services associated with devices, who installs the devices, associated software/hardware, etc. Competitive forces in the free market most likely will be a primary driver in reducing producer costs. More information on potential costs of the NAIS can be found through the Livestock Marketing Information Center’s publications available at www.lmic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm, or contact a Cooperative Extension Service office listed on the back of this brochure.

Is the USDA accepting comments on NAIS?

Yes. Comments to the Species Working Groups and to USDA concerning NAIS development are still being accepted. Producers can send e-mail comments to animalidcomments@aphis.usda.gov. Comments should include the species name and the term “working group” in the subject line of the e-mail. Comments can also be mailed directly to USDA: NAIS Program Staff, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, Unit 200, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737.