

Introduction: National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

NAIS will create a uniform national animal identification system across many species. The transition to NAIS will enhance the role of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited veterinarians in supporting disease control and eradication programs. It is critical for you to stay informed as NAIS evolves, examine how NAIS can function in your practice, and answer client questions. For further information, contact your State NAIS Administrator, State Area Veterinarian In Charge (AVIC), or refer to the information sources listed below. In addition, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains an NAIS Web site at www.usda.gov/nais.

The System in Action

Veterinarians know it can take days, weeks, and even months to acquire accurate animal movement information to complete a disease investigation. This inability to quickly address an emerging animal disease can have negative economic and domestic/international trade implications for the livestock industry and governments.

When NAIS is fully implemented, it will provide coordinated information access in a disease situation. The following scenario explains how NAIS will work if a diseased animal is detected at a premises:

- Using one premises as a starting point, animal health officials will use NAIS databases to **identify other potentially affected premises and exposed animals**.
- Epidemiologists will generate a map of the area and, within minutes have **a clear picture of the outbreak's potential scope**.
- Animal health officials will **contact premises owners** and begin taking steps to **prevent the disease from spreading further**.
- Private and State animal tracing databases will provide information on **animals that have moved from the infected zones**.
- Animal health officials will **take precise actions to address the disease situation**, minimize its impact on producers, and speed control and eradication efforts as much as possible.

NAIS Information Sources

Refer to the following information sources to stay informed as NAIS evolves.

State NAIS Administrators

http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/directories.shtml

Area Veterinarians in Charge

Telephone: 1-866-536-7593
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm

APHIS Veterinary Services

Telephone: 1-301-734-0799
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth>

Veterinary Services Process Streamlining

<https://vsps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/>

Emergency Management Response System

<http://emrs.aphis.usda.gov/>

NAIS User Guide

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/guidelines.shtml>

Visit <http://www.usda.gov/nais> for more information

Getting Involved with NAIS

Veterinarians have a number of ways they can familiarize themselves with NAIS and get involved:

- **Register your premises.** Veterinarians are encouraged to register their facilities that house, process, or maintain livestock or equine patients.
- **Learn more about NAIS-approved devices.** The use of tags and electronic IDs (EIDs) are a topic of great interest to producers. Veterinarians need to know that current official ID systems are still accepted and will fit into NAIS. NAIS-approved devices are also official and can be used for recording purposes.
- **Learn how NAIS will change some processes.** Please familiarize yourself with NAIS terminology. You'll want to understand how premises identification numbers (PINs) can be used on health certificates, test charts, and vaccination records, for example. For some practitioners, acquiring AINs, understanding GINs, and the ability to read EIDs may be required. The reporting of some animal movement activity may also be your responsibility. Brucellosis and tuberculosis programs in some States are already or soon will be using animal identification numbers (AINs).
- **Seek NAIS education opportunities.** APHIS Veterinary Services is currently developing training modules that address NAIS. State NAIS Administrators and Extension educators may already offer briefings in your area.
- **Check with your State about NAIS requirements.** Some States/Tribes have tailored NAIS to meet local or statewide needs. Premises registration may be required in your State, for example.
- **Provide Client/Producer NAIS information in your office.** You can order free copies of the enclosed brochure by going to http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/order_materials.shtml or using the card in this mailing. Online materials are available at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/>.
- **Research how to use NAIS in veterinary practices and livestock/poultry operations.** Use of premises identification numbers can be used in records management, for example. Your clients can use components of NAIS for purposes such as herd or flock management, genetic programs, or other value-added opportunities. You can consider adding a profit center to your practice by becoming an AIN Tag Manager or Tag Reseller.

About NAIS

NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States. Designed to assist in mitigating disease spread among U.S. livestock and poultry, NAIS will help maintain consumer confidence in our food supply, and retain access to domestic and foreign markets.

NAIS is organized into three components described at right: premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracing. Premises registration is available now through individual States, Tribes, and Territories. Animal ID is available for several species and is being expanded to others. Animal tracing options are being refined by NAIS's industry sector partners and some States.

NAIS Components

NAIS is organized into three components:

- **Premises registration.** Locations where animals are held or kept are assigned Premises ID Numbers (PINs).
- **Animal identification.** Producers will use individual animal ID numbers (AIN) or group/lot ID numbers (GIN) to identify animals.
- **Animal tracing.** Animal movements that pose a significant risk of disease transmission will be reported to industry group or State databases.

