

Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee Report

2007 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 4, 2007



The Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee met on Wednesday April 4, 2007 from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm PDT, during the NIAA 2007 Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California with 120 people present. Dr. Robert Fourdraine as the Chair and Mr. Glenn Fischer served as the Vice Chair.

Committee chair, Dr. Robert Fourdraine, welcomed members and reviewed committee structure. The Animal Identification and Information Systems committee also includes a subcommittee Equine ID with Ms. Amelita Facchiano as the chair and Dr. Mary Giddens as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on National Identification Implementation and related systems. The following speakers presented relevant information:

Dr. John Clifford, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services - USDA Updates:

- National ID is a key priority for Dr. Clifford and Undersecretary Bruce Knight.
- NAIS continues to evolve; excellent progress to date
- Premises registration is the foundation of NAIS – currently 377,000 premises registered to date; growing at 3,000 per week
 - o USDA continues to solicit non-profit organizations to develop premises registration programs
- USDA continues to adopt standards that facilitate market development: e.g. adoption of ISO RFID standards as appropriate.
- Animal ID – Integrating with existing programs and systems; 840 tags now recognized in all programs (some at producer cost).
- Animal Tracing: Agreements with 14 ATDs in place.
- NAIS document openly available on NAIS website; comments to USDA always welcome.

Kevin Kirk, Michigan Department of Agriculture - Animal ID, The Michigan Experience:

- Review of History of Animal ID in Michigan, beginning with Animal Industry Act of 2000, and culminating with March 1, 2007 requirement for all cattle to have RFID tags prior to movement.
- Review of Michigan Implementation Plan – January 2006: engage stakeholders, develop communications plan. Educational meetings including MSU extension, Livestock Auction Markets and Industry Meetings.
- Benefits: Pre-harvest food safety and security; producer market access.
- Results: 17,759 of ~18,000 premises registered; 10,334 producers have ordered 998,000 RFID tags; 98% of all cattle coming to market in March 2007 have RFID tags.
- Foundation of Success: Animal Health, Human Health and Food Safety.

Dr. Charlie Hatcher, American Association Bovine Practitioners - Integration between NAIS and Existing Animal Health Programs:

- AABP, Private Practitioner, Regulatory and Regional (Tennessee) perspectives reviewed.
 - o AABP – A NAIS Supporter.
 - o Private Practitioner Integration – First line of defense against FAD.
 - o Regulatory Integration – Less cattle officially identified than ever; need to support animal ID (start Phase 2 of program).
 - o Tennessee – USDA Age and Source Verification programs and livestock markets; Equine Microchip and passport programs... strong, broad-based industry partners.
 - Numerous producer and facility cost share programs help incentivize market participation

Dr. Patrick Webb, National Pork Board - Industry Participation Implementing NAIS – Pork Industry Cooperative Agreement with USDA:

- 2006 Pork Industry Implementation Workforce set goal of 100% premises registration by end of 2007 as a first step.
- Key Educational and Outreach components, used at major shows, state events and producer messaging.
- Currently 35,932 of 67,330 premises now registered (54%).
- Approach:
 - o Contract with 3 Regional Swine ID Coordinators
 - o Program and Materials Development; State Specific Promotion

Erik Risa, Youth Programs Committee Update:

- Discussed successful NAIS Education and Outreach programs to critical youth segment.
- Opportunities include targeting youth educators and advisors for outreach (educate the educator); identify key target groups.

J. Amelita Facchiano, Update form Equine ID Subcommittee:

- Reaffirmed resolutions
(see separate Subcommittee report)

Old Business:

Review of Current Policy: All existing policy reaffirmed.

New Business:

New Resolutions: none passed (one motion tabled).

Committee Session adjourned at 4:55pm.