

**Animal Identification and Information Systems
(and Equine Identification Subcommittee)
Committee Report**

2008 NIAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2008



The Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee met on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm EDT, during the 2008 NIAA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana with 106 people present. Glenn Fischer served as the Chair, and Victor Velez served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on the NAIS Business Plan and industry/state implementation of ID systems that contribute to producer value and state/federal disease management systems. The following speakers presented relevant information:

Neil Hammerschmidt, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented "USDA Business Plan Update."

- Review elements of animal disease traceability; NAIS objectives
- Target priorities with greatest ROI – cattle a priority focus
- 550,000 premises registered to date; numerous approved devices and databases accredited
- Key focus – integrate NAIS with existing disease programs
- Need to harmonize ID systems of existing to utilize domestic programs "840"
- Multiple ID drivers: commerce/trade, marketing, genetic improvement and future COOL requirements
- Standardize data elements: Adopt standards for import/export (proposed rule Oct. 2008); use standardized PIN for disease programs
- Technology Integration – eTB, eBrucellosis and eICVI systems
- Continue/expand partnerships and collaboration with states and industry
- Performance measures in place for each species group
- Cost/benefit analysis is underway, led by KSU (Ted Schroeder); due late 2008

John Picanso, USDA/APHIS/VS, presented "Veterinary Services Information Technology Initiatives."

- IT Development inputs from industry, trading partners, stakeholders and other agencies
- Strong IT infrastructure, newly reorganized within VS, provides for efficient product development and delivery
- Development of National Assembly IT Forum; a collaborative effort, utilizing VS IT "Framework"
- Veterinary Service Process Streamlining (VSPS) – fully integrate VSPS with NAIS
- Undergoing a deep, technical review of Animal Health and Surveillance Management (AHSM) system; considering build (internal) vs. buy (third party development)

Species Group Updates:

Kerry Thompson, American Horse Council, presented "Equine Species Working Group Update"

- Equine Species Working Group represents 37 organizations to evaluate and apply NAIS to equine industry
- Equine ID recommendation for ISO RFID microchips as most practical (2006)
- One chip approved by USDA (Digital Angel Life Chip) – offered for sale at \$20.
- Approach is consistent with International Equine ID – all foals born in EU after July 2009 must also be micro chipped
- No equine movements will be additionally reported - rely only on current regulatory mechanisms for horses that move

- www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com

Dr. Lawrence D. McGill, American College of Veterinary Pathologists, presented "Tissue Reactions to Microchip Implantation in Laboratory Animals and Pets."

- Sarcomas have been associated in many vaccinations/intrusive procedures: example is 1-2/10,000 in cats
- Species affected: cats, dogs, equine, and large animals with decreasing frequencies (perhaps as low as 1/1 million+)
- No reports of sarcomas to date in any food animals
- Reports on tumors caused by micro chipping mice and rats; true, but many elements introduced into rats/mice produce tumors
- Reports on microchip sarcoma in cats and dogs – less than 10 in literature, common element is that tumor may have been caused by injections
- In controlled studies in dogs – no tumors from micro chipping
- Bottom line: 5 tumors in 20 million microchips to date across all species; extrapolation to large animals is not valid

Dr. Jamie S. Jonker, National Milk Producers Federation, presented "Dairy Cattle."

- iDairy formed in 2005 as a single voice for the dairy industry to support a national animal identification system
- iDairy Premises registration: 59,135 licensed dairies in the USA and 3,000 dairy calf and heifer growers – goal is for all to be registered; to date approx. 40,000 registered
- Technology standards in place – ref: www.idairy.org
- National F.A.I.R. is the official Animal Tracking Database for dairy
- iDairy Cooperative Agreement with USDA to bring premises registration to 100% goal

Dr. Patrick Webb, National Pork Board, presented "Swine."

- Identification of hogs has been in place since 1988; 48 hour traceback is already in place
- Premises registration: 67,280 swine premises – as of February 2008, 68.2% registered (45,897); representing 80%+ of hogs covered by a premises ID
- Swine ID Plan Cooperative agreement has been very successful in education across the segment
- Strong industry partners in producer outreach
- Packers and processors are very supportive – are beginning to ask producers for PINs...may become a condition of sale in near future
- Official (visual) tags to become available in near future for cull sows and boars

Dr. Ashby Green, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, presented "Beef Cattle."

- NCBA pleased to be new member of NIAA and participating in this meeting
- Beef industry engaged through National Cattlemen's Foundation and state/regional affiliates in USDA Cooperative agreement to facilitate premises registration
- 3 prong approach through print media, electronic media on Cattlemen to Cattlemen TV show on RFD TV and field representation
- Facilitate education through 98 state/regional Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programs

Dr. Marvin Shurley, American Meat Goat Association, presented "Goats."

- Involvement in NAIS relatively new; brought into system as part of Scrapie Eradication programs
- Premises and AIN in compliance with NAIS goals

Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of Minnesota, presented "Sheep."

- SWG reports 135,000 sheep and goat premises identified as of February 2008
- All breeding animals and all sexually intact animals not in slaughter channels must be

identified

- NSEP tags – call 1-866-USDA-Tag; free compliance tags, also value-added visual and EID tags available
- Large investment in educational programs – programs geared at ease of implementation for industry
- Some states, particularly in Southeast, need additional efforts to raise compliance

State Activities:

Dr. Annette Whiteford, California Department of Food and Agriculture, presented “California Tuberculosis Update.”

- Slaughter surveillance programs initiated current activity – detected during routine slaughter
- Initial animal traced (via bangs tag and brand) to Fresno County birth farm
- CA managed disease through Incident Command System
- Trace on original affected herd completed; brand system very helpful
- Animal ID – trace without a good ID system is very difficult; ID collectors gathering all forms of ID available; field experience giving good knowledge on how to proceed, but much work is yet to be done
- USDA cooperation has been critical

Dr. Robert Fourdraine, Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, presented “Wisconsin Program Update.”

- Premises registration: approaching 60,000 premises; around 150-200 new premises registrations per month; premises renewal process ongoing
- Animal ID: Cost Share program to facilitate official ID adoption; hands-on demo at farm shows featuring dairy production system integration
- 2008 efforts: continue to educate on benefit of individual animal ID; educate stakeholders on importance of disease traceability; county fair implementation programs
- Livestock Vantage branded effort

Kevin Kirk, Michigan Department of Agriculture, presented “Michigan Implementation of Mandatory RFID.”

- Review implementation/deployment of system from 2000-present; mandatory RFID implemented on March 1, 2007.
- Michigan has 3 zones: upper peninsula is TB free; upper part of lower peninsula key infected zone, lower portion is modified accredited zone
- Goal is to move lower portion of state to free zone (from mod. Accred.) by use of RFID/traceability systems
- Broad industry partnership in Michigan that has been key to success of program; implementation and communications plan through all stakeholders
- 12,820 producers purchased over 1.5 million tags (current cattle population in Michigan approximately 1 million)
- Today, 95-98% of animals coming to market have RFID

Dr. David Schmitt, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, presented “Iowa Premises Registration Program.”

- USDA has assisted in state premises program
- Provides for initial infrastructure for efficient use of ID across relevant areas for movement (ICVI) and disease management programs

Old and New Business: No changes to existing resolutions.

Committee Session adjourned at 5:20 pm EST.