

POLICY AMENDMENT FORM

Amendment to: Animal Health Protection and Disease Control
(Policy Title)



Section Number /Title to Be Amended: 1.10. Animal Identification

Subject of Amendment: Animal Identification

Submitted By: Secretary Bill Even South Dakota
(Name) (State)

Amendment Text (Please write legibly):

1.10 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

The number of animals officially identified in existing animal disease program databases in the United States has been decreasing rapidly over the last few years due to the successes of disease eradication programs that have historically provided the foundation for animal identification. The ability to efficiently track food-producing animals from birth to slaughter is vital to safeguarding animal health, protecting the safety of the U.S. food supply, and promoting the economic vitality of animal agriculture. More than ever, States need modern tools for capturing animal health data in an integrated and automated fashion to track the health of livestock populations. USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a voluntary partnership among producers and government that seeks to ensure a 48-hour traceback of livestock in the event of a disease outbreak. NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to events affecting animal health in the United States. NAIS utilizes three components -- premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing -- to locate and eliminate potentially diseased animals. The system and all 3 components are based on voluntary enrollment by livestock producers.

~~An industry-state federal partnership, aided by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, was formed in 2002 to more uniformly coordinate a national animal identification plan. The resulting plan, requested by the US Animal Health Association and facilitated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, built upon previously established and successful animal health and animal identification programs involving many animal industries. More than 100 animal industry and state federal government professionals representing more than 70 allied associations/organizations collectively assessed the plan to meet future U. S. animal identification needs.~~

~~The U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) calls for federal standards and oversight that will enable states and industry organizations to develop a flexible network of linked databases to trace diseased animals within 48 hours, a goal established as necessary if animal diseases are to be properly responded to. Linked databases will be needed to:~~

- ~~○ Identify where animals are kept (premises registration)~~
- ~~○ Identify individual (or groups/lots) of animals (animal identification)~~
- ~~○ Track movements of individuals or groups/lots of animals from premise to premise (animal tracking)~~

~~While the USAIP initially supports eleven animal industries with species-specific standards applying to all animals within the represented industries, the plan is flexible enough to accommodate modifications. The USAIP provides a practical framework for continued planning and implementation of a workable national animal identification program that provides states and industry organizations with flexibility to~~

develop premises registration and animal identification systems that meet their own unique needs while providing standards that will enable national interoperability. The costs associated with USAIP will be substantial and the plan will continue to evolve over time.

NASDA supports using the USAIP as the model plan to establish state and national programs of animal identification. NASDA supports funding the program to incrementally implement premises registration and animal identification consistent with the USAIP, recognizing that incremental development of premises registration and animal identification systems will provide immediate benefits in terms of safeguarding animal health and provide necessary infrastructure for implementation of 48-hour animal tracking. NASDA also supports the long-term state and federal investment that must be made to maintain an animal identification component of safeguarding animal health.

NASDA supports and encourages the U.S. Congress to legislatively remove eattle livestock from the J-List, an amendment to the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1304(a)(3)(J); 19 C.F.R. § 134.33). This would allow animal health authorities to identify imported livestock eattle, which is critical in concert with the recently enacted Country of Origin Labeling provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 11002.). Moreover, identification of imported livestock is necessary to facilitate quick trace back of livestock that were due to the potential importation of animals previously and unknowingly exposed to potential new and emerging diseases, or diseases with long incubation periods, such as BSE and tuberculosis. The need to locate these animals may not be realized until many years after the date of importation.

The USDA released a draft Business Plan for implementing NAIS in December 2007. The primary focus of the business plan is streamlining current animal health programs to increase NAIS participation through these systems. The basic strategies outlined in the business plan include: focusing on cattle breeding herd as first priority; harmonizing and standardizing data collection methods using NAIS standards across existing government programs; integrating automated data capture technologies within existing disease programs; expanding partnerships with state and tribal governments; collaboration with industry; and, continued exploration of new technologies and their applications.

NASDA supports USDA's efforts within the NAIS draft Business Plan to form a more workable, common sense approach to enhance animal ID for animal health and disease surveillance purposes. NASDA supports USDA's decision to keep NAIS a voluntary program for livestock producers. NASDA further supports the recent producer confidentiality provision within the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Section 1619). Section 1619 prohibits disclosure of information that agricultural producers or owners of land have provided to USDA concerning agricultural operations, farming or conservation practices, or the land itself, in order to participate in voluntary USDA programs such as NAIS.

NASDA also supports and encourages the use of state-held animal ID program databases that are fully equipped to communicate with other state-held animal ID program databases, to trace animal movement in the event of a disease outbreak. NASDA further supports the use of a standardized animal identification numbering system for livestock that is technology-neutral, enabling producers to choose the identification tag that best fits their operations and management practices allowing producers to manage costs.

Signature 

Date 9-5-08

Adopted _____
Adopted w/ Amend. _____
Not Adopted _____