

Animal Identification & Information Systems

2005 Mid-Year Report

As USDA is continuing the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) significant changes have taken place since the April NIAA committee meeting. In August, USDA Secretary Johanns announced that the National animal identification and tracking database will be managed by a private legal entity comprising of all livestock species and industry groups.

While the animal tracking database is to be managed by a private entity, the Premises repository and Animal ID Numbering allocator system will remain at this time in USDA hands. As USDA provided more detail on this move at a recent meeting in Kansas City, USDA announced that the funding for such a database and the establishment of data collection infra-structure will need to be obtained by industry.

At this time a legal entity has not been established, issues such as database management, confidentiality, funding, and intellectual property rights will all have to be addressed by this legal entity.

In October NIAA held its ID/INFO Expo in Chicago. The meeting was attended by over 500 attendees and numerous presentations about the recent move by USDA along with reports on pilot projects conducted in the past year highlighted the meeting.

At the USAHA meeting more discussion will take place on expectations of animal health officials of a private animal tracking database. Members of this committee will be attending this meeting. At this time no action is needed by the committee until it becomes more clear what direction the NAIS will be taking.