

Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee Report

2006 Mid-Year Report

August 24, 2006



Chair: Dr. Robert Fourdraine

Vice Chair: Glenn Fischer

As many of you are aware, the NAIS is moving slowly forward. Close to 300,000 premises have been registered nation wide, Wisconsin has mandatory premises registration as of this year, and in September Indiana will follow. The AIN management system was released this spring, and the first tags have been approved to carry the AIN number. In regards to animal ID data, USDA has changed the concept of the privatized databases to the degree where USDA will not store any animal ID and tracking data and in the case of a traceback, animal health officials will be able to request information on an animal or premises through the portal (Animal Trace Processing System, or ATPS) USDA is currently developing. The ATPS will send out a message to approved private and state databases which in return will send information to the ATPS on the animal or premises in question. The ATPS will summarize the data and provide the results back to the animal health official. USDA is currently evaluating private and state databases to participate in the ATPS and plans for the ATPS to be fully operational by February 2007. Although technically it sounds feasible, for the system to work, it will require close monitoring. Although technically premises can be registered, AIN numbers and tags can be allocated, and animal tracking data can be stored in private databases, the big question that remains is how many producers will participate under a voluntary market driven system. USDA expects 100% voluntary compliance by end of 2008 driven by market forces, however no other country has been able to implement a 100% voluntary system.

In addition to these challenges grassroots groups opposing NAIS have used political pressure to eliminate NAIS funding. NIAA has not been immune to the criticism and being a leader in the animal ID arena should expect more criticism. One step USDA has taken to address the current criticism on NAIS was to contract with a new firm to start an outreach program to address the concerns and misinformation, however to date little or no materials have been made available.

In August NIAA will hold another ID Info Expo, however this time it will be held in Kansas City. Pre registration are above last years levels and the agenda will focus not only on NAIS but also other practical solutions currently available to producers.

The ID Info expo meeting is sofar the only national meeting this year in regards to animal ID. The upcoming USAHA meeting will give another opportunity to discuss NAIS progress and how animal health officials perceive the current progress.

Given the unique position of NIAA, it should continue its focus on providing information and provide forums for all to share their views and build consensus. NIAA needs to work together with USAHA to provide the leadership that is currently lacking at the national level in order to move NAIS forward in a way most in the industry will support.