How To Obtain an APHIS eAuthentication Account

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is participating in a Departmentwide eAuthentication initiative. USDA eAuthentication is a system used by USDA agencies to enable individuals to obtain accounts that allow access to certain USDA Web applications and services through the Internet. Registering with USDA's eAuthentication allows use of services such as electronic permits (ePermits), the National Animal Identification System, electronic surveys, and checking the status of USDA accounts. The list of business applications requiring eAuthentification will continue to grow. Customers planning to utilize USDA's electronic Web-based business applications must create an eAuthentication account as soon as possible to ensure that proper access is granted when applications such as ePermits become available. Certain business applications may require further authorization procedures.

The Web-based service identifies and validates USDA customers before they can use participating USDA Web-based business applications. It provides a single credential that a USDA Web user can present to any participating USDA Web site, reducing the burden on customers to register for and maintain separate identities with every online system.

Users may apply for Level 1 or Level 2 Access through the eAuthentication system. However, anyone wanting to browse the USDA Web site for general information on programs or regulations does not need to register for Level 1 or 2 Access. An account with Level 1 Access provides limited access to USDA Web-site portals but does not allow users to conduct official electronic business transactions with USDA. Level 2 Access provides entry to a wide array of USDA portals and applications and also provides the ability to conduct official electronic business transactions with USDA. This includes such things as applying for permits, registering premises for the National Animal Identification System, and checking the status of documents. Users may apply directly for Level 2 status without having to first apply for Level 1 status.

Creating an Account for Level 1 Access

To begin the eAuthentication process, go to the eAuthentication Web site at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>.
1. From the eAuthentication page, click on "Create An Account."

2. Click on Level 1 Access.
3. Create your brief customer profile.
4. Respond to the confirmation e-mail within 7 days.

Creating an Account for Level 2 Access

To begin the eAuthentication process, go to the eAuthentication Web site at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>.
1. From the eAuthentication page, click on "Create An Account."
2. Click on Level 2 Access.
3. Enter user information. You must have a valid e-mail address to register for an account with Level 2 Access. Create a customer profile, User ID, and password that you will need to remember. Within 7 days, respond to a confirmation e-mail.
4. Verify user information and click on "Submit."
5. Check e-mail for verification. Open verification e-mail and click on "Activate My Account."
6. Make an appointment to visit a USDA Service Center and provide your photo identification to a Local Registration Authority (LRA). LRAs are USDA employees who are trained to act as "trusted entities" that validate the identities of customers in eAuthentication. The role of the LRA is similar to that of a Notary Public, who ensures the identity of individuals conducting business transactions. To find a USDA Service Center near you, please visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.
7. Check e-mail for verification of enrollment.

After the eAuthentication process is complete, a user with Level 2 Access has the ability to conduct official electronic business transactions with USDA via the Internet.

For More Information on USDA's eAuthentication

You can learn more at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> on the Web.