

USDA Extends Deadline For National Animal Identification System Cooperative Agreements With Nonprofit Organization

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today extended the deadline to Sept. 4, 2007, for nonprofit livestock and poultry organizations that wish to enter into a cooperative agreement to advance the development of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

These cooperative agreements will support the efforts of organizations to promote NAIS and, specifically, increase participation in the program's foundation, premises registration. USDA will make up to \$3 million available for these agreements.

Currently, USDA has NAIS cooperative agreements with the National Pork Board, the National FFA Organization and the U.S. Animal Identification Organization, with more agreements in development.

In order to be eligible for one of the new cooperative agreements, an organization must qualify as one of the following:

- A nonprofit, nationally-based organization representing the livestock or poultry industry;
- A nonprofit, tribal organization or association that did not receive funding from the NAIS for fiscal year (FY) 2007 through a cooperative agreement;
- An authorized agent working on behalf of a tribe, group of tribes or inter-tribal council that received funding for FY 2007 to conduct premises registration, but that wishes to expand its existing outreach;
- An 1890 historically black land-grant college or university; or
- A 1994 tribal land-grant institution.

The request for proposals (RFP) can be found at www.grants.gov. The RFP provides additional detail about the cooperative agreements, including the process for developing and submitting proposals and the amount of funding available. USDA encourages all interested organizations to submit proposals for consideration. Additional information about the NAIS program, along with a link to the RFP, is available at www.usda.gov/nais.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Wayne Maloney at (301) 734-7255 or visit the NAIS Web site at www.usda.gov/nais.

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