

## **National Animal Identification System**

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The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a key component in the continued development of a National Animal Health Surveillance System. In order to manage animal diseases successfully on a national basis, key factors are consistency in operations and information technology. The NAIS will provide standards for:

- Identifying locations of livestock premises,
- Animal identification number management,
- Tracking animal movements/sightings, and
- Data elements for premises, animal identification, and animal movement/sighting reporting.

These standards are important because they will provide consistent business practices within APHIS-VS, State Departments of Agriculture, industry, and producer communities. Furthermore, the standardized data represented in the supporting processes offer a common communication mechanism for information technology systems to share information seamlessly and electronically.

The NAIS will help animal health officials manage emergency and routine animal health situations more efficiently. Immediate, reliable, and uninterrupted access to essential NAIS information will be integrated into key VS Enterprise applications, such as the Generic Database, Emergency Response Management System, National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

As with all new applications, there are inherent challenges in learning new concepts and acronyms. Now that VS is well on its way, the following information will help gain an understanding of the initial phase focusing on implementing the National Premises Registration System (NPRS).

The NPRS consists of the National Premises Information Repository (NPIR), Standardized Premises Registration System (SPRS), and Compliant Premises Registration System/s (CPRS). The NPIR is a standardized national database and contains premises data elements, including the national premises identification number, premises address information, operation type, and contact data.

The SPRS is a robust application that VS has adopted from the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium to offer States a system for registering national premises identification numbers. This system, which is available to States at no cost, provides great flexibility for managing premises and animal identification programs.

So far, there are several approaches States have chosen for implementing a CPRS. The first model represents States that have built and manage their own application for

premises management. The second method consists of States or regions within States that have outsourced with service providers. In these instances, service providers have built the systems and are managing them on behalf of the States, supported by various types of business relationships. All CPRS systems are required to have an assessment by VS to ensure that they have been built with adequate IT security, have appropriate resources in place to run and manage the systems, and determine whether the systems operate in accordance with NAIS standards.

The next phases of the project entail the development of an Animal Identification Number (AIN) management system and components for reporting animal movements/sightings. Following articles will introduce these components in more detail, as they evolve.