

USDA Approves Three Additional Animal Identification Devices For Use In The National Animal Identification System

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has approved three additional animal identification devices for use in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

APHIS approved a premises identification eartag for slaughter swine produced by Destron Fearing, a division of Digital Angel of St. Paul, Minn. The company already produces two other NAIS compliant tags, including an injectable transponder for use in horses, alpacas and llamas.

APHIS also approved a light-weight radio frequency identification (RFID) button tag intended primarily for use with sheep and goats. The device is produced by Allflex USA of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, and is also available for use with cervids (deer and elk) and pigs. Allflex USA produces two other NAIS compliant tags.

Finally, APHIS approved the Reyflex "840" RFID button tag manufactured by ITW Fastex of Des Plaines, Ill. The tag is suitable for use on cattle, bison, cervids and pigs. It is the first tag produced by ITW Fastex to be certified as NAIS compliant by USDA.

With the approval of these additional devices, there are a total of six approved manufacturers and 11 available NAIS compliant devices. Other firms manufacturing NAIS compliant tags include Leader Products, based in Australia; Global Animal Management/Gissler Technologies and Y-Tex Corporation. A complete list of available tags and manufacturers is available on the NAIS Web site, www.usda.gov/nais.

NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal health events in the United States. The program, which is voluntary at the federal level, consists of three parts: premises registration, animal identification and tracing.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at www.aphis.usda.gov and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Joelle Schelhaus at (301) 734-0595 or by e-mail at joelle.r.schelhaus@aphis.usda.gov.

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