

Questions and Answers: National Animal Identification System Benefit-Cost Analysis Minor Livestock Species

Q. Were any minor livestock species considered in the benefit-cost analysis for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?

A. Researchers did a limited analysis of a few of the minor livestock species, including the bison, camelid, cervid, and goat sectors. However, the research was not as comprehensive as with the major livestock species.

The majority of the analysis focused on the bovine, porcine, ovine, poultry, and equine industries. For these major industries, the study looked at the benefits and costs for livestock producers (divided into sub-groups by production phase), livestock markets, and packers. All three groups were broken down further by operation size to provide additional accuracy in the analysis. The benefits and costs for Federal and State governments also were examined.

Q. How were the minor species evaluated in the report?

A. Researchers compiled basic information about these species but did not complete a full benefit-cost analysis. Their study focused on the size of the industry, diseases of concern, and identification systems already in places.

For the discussion on these minor species, see pages 337–344 of the full report, which is accessible at http://www.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/plans_reports/Benefit_Cost_Analysis_NAIS.pdf

Q. Why were these species not fully evaluated?

A. These species were not given as in-depth of an analysis as the major livestock species or the equine sector due to their relatively smaller overall size and financial impact. Also, these species tend to already have traceability systems in place and/or have many fewer diseases of concern.

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