Animal Tracing

Q. What is animal tracing?

A. Animal tracing is the third and final component of NAIS to be developed. In this part of the system, animal tracking databases—which are maintained by States and private industry—hold the animal movement records provided by those producers who choose to participate and to report movement information. These animal movement records are made available to animal health officials to respond to disease events.

Producers, who choose to participate in the animal tracing component of NAIS, select the animal tracking database of their choice for reporting certain animal movements that present a higher risk for disease transmission. Recommended reportable movements include: moving an animal through a public market or auction, private sale of an animal that involves moving it off its birth premises, and participation of an animal in regional or national exhibitions or sporting events.

During an animal disease event when movement records are requested and linked with other NAIS data, the resulting information provides animal health officials with timely, accurate records showing where animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them. Animal tracing information makes it easier for producers, States, industry, and USDA to determine the scope of an animal disease event and to locate affected animals.

Q. What are the animal tracking databases (ATDs)?

A. ATDs are information systems maintained by private entities or the States that contain information related to the location and movement of animals.

To protect producers' information, NAIS is designed so that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not hold animal tracing data. However, should an animal health event arise, USDA will quickly be able to request this information from the ATDs through the animal trace processing system (ATPS) and use it to speed disease investigations.

Q. What is the animal trace processing system (ATPS)?

A. The job of the ATPS is to collect information from databases when a traceback becomes necessary. The ATPS sends a request for information to the various ATDs that are maintained by private entities or the States and that contain information related to the location and movement of animals.

Today, when an animal health event occurs, the ATPS posts a request for information regarding the location and movement of suspect animals. ATDs continuously scan (every 15 minutes) for postings from the ATPS. When a request for information is detected, each ATD runs a query on the animal identification numbers (AIN) included in the request and returns relevant records to the ATPS.

Q. What ATDs are available for me to use?

A. There are several NAIS-compliant ATDs that are currently accepting animal movement records.

A current list of the available ATDs can be found at: http://animalid. aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS_ATDs_for_ web.pdf

Q. What benefit does animal tracing provide?

A. When there is a disease outbreak or animal health event, the ATDs provide timely, accurate records that show where your animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them.

Animal tracing information makes it easier for producers, States, industry, and USDA to determine the scope of an animal disease event and to locate affected animals.

Additional Information

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