

Premises Registration

Q. What is premises registration?

A. Premises registration is the foundation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). NAIS is a nationwide system that helps to limit the spread of animal diseases, minimize animal losses and economic impact, and protect producers' livelihoods.

Through premises registration, individuals create a record for the locations where they raise, hold, or board their livestock and/or poultry. Locations are identified by a premises identification number, or PIN. A PIN is a unique number that identifies a specific farm or location. The goal for premises registration is to establish a record of all such locations in the United States.

When you sign up to receive a PIN, you provide basic contact information for your premises. This information is fundamental to efficiently containing animal health events. The contact information ensures that animal health officials can notify you quickly if a disease outbreak or animal health event occurs in your area. With rapid notification, you can take the necessary steps to protect your animals' health.

USDA maintains only limited information about a location and will protect individuals' private information from disclosure. Choosing to obtain a PIN does not obligate you to participate

in other NAIS components (animal identification and animal tracing). You decide, based on your needs, to participate in one, two, or all three components of NAIS.

Q. What is a premises?

A. In general, a premises is a location where livestock and/or poultry are raised, held, or boarded. Examples include farms, ranches, markets, exhibitions, and slaughtering facilities. These are only basic guidelines. There is no "one size fits all" definition of a premises. Producers should consult State and local animal health authorities in their areas if they have questions regarding how their location fits into NAIS.

Q. Am I required by law to have a PIN?

A. NAIS provides the opportunity for producers that are not part of a disease program to voluntarily participate in national health safeguarding efforts.

In order to standardize data, USDA is using NAIS data elements, including the PIN, for the administration of Federal disease programs. A PIN is not required if the animals at the premises are not in a Federally-regulated disease program.

Individual States may choose to require PINs within their State, based on local needs.

Q. Why should I sign up for a PIN?

A. In an animal health emergency, no one can help you protect your animals if they don't know you are there. The basic contact information you provide when obtaining a PIN opens the lines of communication between you and animal health officials.

Having a PIN means that you will be alerted quickly when there is a potential threat to your animals. This gives you more control over the health and marketability of your animals. You have the information and assistance you need to take action and protect your animals and your investment against disease spread.

Besides—signing up for a PIN is free. It's a quick and simple process. And Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure.

Q. How do I sign up for a PIN?

A. You can get a PIN by contacting your State or Tribal NAIS Administrator and completing the appropriate form. For your State or Tribal NAIS Administrator's contact information, please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/nais/getPIN>.

Premises registration forms are also available on each State's department of agriculture Web site. You may opt to register your premises online (as available), or by mailing or faxing the form to the NAIS contact for your area.

Q. What information do I have to provide to get a PIN?

A. When applying for a PIN, you will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name of the entity
- Appropriate contact person
- Street address/city/state/zip code for the premises
- Contact phone number
- Operation type (production unit, market, exhibition, slaughter plant, etc.)
- Alternative phone number(s)
- Species kept at the premises

This is the basic contact information USDA recommends for obtaining a PIN. However, assigning PINs is carried out by the States and Tribes. Each may have its own additional information requests, based on local needs.

Additional Information

For more information about NAIS, contact:

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