

USDA Partners with Two Organizations to Provide National Animal Identification System Outreach to Small and Economically Disadvantaged Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service recently signed two cooperative agreements that will fund outreach and education on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) among small and economically disadvantaged producers.

In Oklahoma, Langston University and its community-based organization partner, the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, are working together. They will use their cooperative agreement funds to provide minority and under-served producers in Oklahoma with greater awareness and understanding of NAIS.

In North Carolina, Operation Spring Plant is a nonprofit community-based organization that works with minority and under-served producers in the state. Their cooperative agreement funds will allow them to expand their outreach efforts to include NAIS awareness and education.

These are the first cooperative agreements signed to promote NAIS education and outreach among small and economically disadvantaged producers through partnership with 1890 historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, 1994 tribal land-grant colleges and universities, tribal organizations and community-based organizations. Additional agreements are under review.

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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