

National Animal Identification System
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By now many of you have read or herd of the National Animal Identification System or NAIS. The NAIS could involve you. According to Dr. Ronnie Silcox, Extension Beef Specialist with UGA Extension, the NAIS has been in development for the past few years. Since 2004 there have been listening sessions on NAIS. In April 2006 an implementation plan was released by USDA. Current information and plans can be found at the web site: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>. The plans are to phase in this system over the next three years.

The long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide animal health officials with the capability to identify all livestock and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery.

The NAIS currently includes plans for cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, poultry, llamas, alpacas, and domestic deer and elk.

There are three components of NAIS: Premises Identification, Animal Identification and Animal Tracking.

The first step in developing a national system is to assign a unique number- a Premises ID Number (PIN) - to every location where animals are born, managed, marketed or exhibited. Livestock owners in Georgia need to apply to the Georgia Department of Agriculture for a Premises ID Number. There is no charge for this service.

How can you apply? You can find a NAIS Premises ID Application in some of our local Farm Supply stores, pick up a copy at our office or go on line to <http://admin.caes.uga.edu/team/beef/> .

The benchmarks set for implementing NAIS are as follows:

January 2007- 25% of Premises registered

January 2008- 70% of Premises registered
40% of Animals identified

January 2009- 100% of Premises registered
100% of Animals identified
60% of Animals <1 year of age have complete movement data

If you raise, manage or market any of the animals listed above you need to apply for a Premises ID Number. Fill out the form and return it to the Georgia Department of Agriculture to receive you PIN number.

For more information on these and other related topics, call me at (706) 935-4211 or come by your Catoosa County Extension Office at 43 Maple Street, Ringgold