



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

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National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Information for Dairy Farmers

Dairy farmers play an integral role in supporting and advancing the marketing of milk and dairy foods. As a farmer, you are aware of the risk that animal disease poses to all sectors of the agricultural community. While disease surveillance, eradication, and control programs have achieved significant success over the years in reducing animal disease in the United States (U.S.) it still remains a reality. However, you can strengthen your role in mitigating the risk of animal disease in the U.S. by participating in NAIS.

NAIS is a voluntary animal identification program that enables swift and effective response to animal disease in the case of an outbreak. If you are personally involved in livestock production, registering your premise will give you the power to better protect your animals, your markets, and your neighbors if a disease event occurs. Further, I strongly encourage participants of voluntary marketing programs such as the Department of Agriculture's Process Verified and Quality System Assessment Programs to meet the inherent animal identification requirements by using NAIS. Additional registration benefits include improved traceability for foreign animal disease control, enhanced marketability, and increased biosecurity protection of the Nation's livestock. Premise registration is free and simple, and it ensures that producers such as you receive quick notification if an animal disease outbreak occurs and provides benefits for marketing value-added animals domestically and internationally. Taking such proactive measures ensures that the United States will continue to maintain a worldwide reputation for producing high quality food.

Information is available online to help you learn more about NAIS participation. Go to <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais> and click "Register your premises today!" to get started. Additionally, you can contact Neil Hammerschmidt, NAIS Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, at [neil.hammerschmidt@usda.gov](mailto:neil.hammerschmidt@usda.gov) for more information.

Thank you for taking this important step to protect our Nation's livestock from the devastating effects of an animal disease outbreak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce I. Knight", written over a white background.

Bruce I. Knight  
Under Secretary  
Marketing and Regulatory Programs