

# 2008-2009 NIAA Resolutions

## Animal Identification & Information Systems

**Mission:** To play an important role in bringing unresolved issues such as advocating cost effective technologies and systems for modernizing the identification of livestock that has significant implications for residue avoidance, disease control and providing management information to producers.

### **Confidentiality of Producer Records**

**BACKGROUND:** The United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) was endorsed by the United States Animal Health Association with a resolution requesting that the United States Department of Agriculture use the plan as a guide for the implementation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires that records obtained by public agencies be made available to the public upon request, unless specific exemptions are made for that information.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the development and implementation of a national animal identification system as outlined in the USAIP, and further refined through the NAIS.

The NIAA supports the exemption of NAIS data information from public release under the FOIA so livestock industry stakeholders are assured their business information is kept private.

Approved: 2003 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2006

### **Funding for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)**

**BACKGROUND:** It is well recognized that through the development of the United States Animal Identification Plan a recommended framework was established for the implementation of a national animal identification system. It is crucial that adequate funding is obtained to support the implementation of the various components of the NAIS.

Without additional funding focusing on completing the premises registration process and developing the infrastructure (retrofitting of facilities for placement of identification collection equipment and continued implementation of the electronic health certificate system) necessary to collect timely animal movements, particularly at all livestock concentration points, the NAIS implementation could be pushed back several years.

**RESOLUTION:** The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports additional funding to complete premises registration and develop information collection capabilities required to implement the NAIS. NIAA supports funding be made available in FY 2006 and subsequent budget years to the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services for the implementation and administration of NAIS.

Approved: 2004 | Amended: 2005

### **Endorsement of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)**

**BACKGROUND:** Animal agriculture, as an industry, has identified the need for the establishment of a unified, national animal identification system for the purpose of animal disease traceability. In recent years major strides in accomplishing this goal have been achieved. Through federal-state-industry collaborative efforts the United States Animal Identification Plan was developed and presented to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in early 2004. This plan has been used as a guide for the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services/Veterinary Services (APHIS/VS) in its work to develop and implement the NAIS.

It is evident that some details of the NAIS remain unresolved, such as protection of data confidentiality, funding sources, and producer participation. With this in mind, it is imperative that industry leaders and state and federal animal health officials remain involved in resolving these issues in a united and cooperative manner.

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Reprinting of resolutions is encouraged.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) supports the USDA/APHIS/VS efforts toward implementing the NAIS, and supports that this system be used across animal agriculture for safeguarding the health of the U.S. herd and flock. NIAA also encourages all stakeholders to remain engaged in NAIS by providing input through the NAIS Subcommittee of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases and other designated forums.

Approved: 2005

#### **Outreach/Education Efforts for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)**

BACKGROUND: Since the announcement of the NAIS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state/industry partners have worked to provide information about the goals, implementation, and overall status of the program. Although great strides have been made in education about and promotion of the NAIS, much misinformation still exists. In order to keep moving forward, it is critical to provide accurate, timely, and transparent communication about the NAIS and its development.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) strongly supports the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services efforts to provide outreach programs and educational materials for the NAIS. NIAA encourages a more proactive approach, including leveraging outreach funds in cooperation with industry organizational partners and state animal health authorities to promote benefits of the NAIS to stakeholders and to address public misconceptions.

Approved: 2006

#### **Position of Support for American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Objectives and Key Elements for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**

BACKGROUND: The equine industry has historically used implantable RFID transponders of multiple frequencies. An international standard has now been established for equine implantable transponders, - the ISO-compliant 11784/85, 134.2 kHz, 15 character alphanumeric.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture supports the AVMA *Objectives and Key Elements Needed for Effective Electronic Identification of Companion Animals, Birds and Equids* (Oversight: CoVS; EB-11/05; Revised EB-04/06).

Objectives and Key Elements 1 and 2, with the following clarifications:

1. As an international standard has been established for equine implantable transponders,
2. The use of ISO compliant transponders is recommended from this time forward, and
3. Scanners must read previously implanted 125 kHz transponders in addition to ISO compliant transponders.

Approved: 2006