



## News Release

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### **ID Panel Reports Positive Producer Acceptance; Issues Still to Be Addressed at Markets**

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Members of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture’s Animal Identification and Information Systems Committee took time to listen to a panel representing issues in the “real world” for animal ID implementation.

Each panelist reported that, to a large extent, producers in their states seemed very willing to participate in the current voluntary premises programs. However, the operators of markets raised concerns about their responsibilities in a universal ID program.

The panelists, who work with producers and ranchers, consisted of:

- Tod Fleming, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales, in Wisconsin and Iowa;
- Dr. Clarence Siroky, Idaho State Veterinarian;
- Dr. Todd Thrift, University of Florida Extension Specialist; and
- Dr. Dave Wiklund, Minnesota Animal ID Coordinator.

Electronic reading of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags is a key element of the new National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which is currently being developed in a partnership between industry and state and federal governments.

According to the panelists, the existing systems needed for reading identification tags electronically cannot be used without “customization” and physical adjustments.

Fleming noted sale of cattle at a rate of 6-10 per minute in their markets, highlighting the importance of making the system in line with the speed of commerce.

Thrift graphically illustrated both need for customization of equipment and market reluctance. “In Florida most of our markets are used to reading adult animal IDs as a result of the brucellosis eradication program. But those same chutes are an entirely different physical situation for a 400 pound calf.”

More than 400 animal agriculture professionals and officials, from the U.S. and abroad, attended the 2005 NIAA Annual Meeting, a record attendance for the second straight year.

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture began operations in January 2000. NIAA's mission is to provide a forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages for animal agriculture professionals.

The organization is dedicated to programs that work towards the eradication of diseases that pose a risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans; promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad; and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being.

Members include professionals engaged in animal agriculture including producers, veterinarians, scientists, government representatives and business executives.

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