
Update:

Equine Identification in the U.S.

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NIAA ID INFO EXPO

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Equine Species Working Group

- Established January 2004
 - 35 Industry Reps & Animal Health Officials
 - 5 Subcommittees to address major concerns
 - Submitted Recommendations to the USDA in December '04 and updated Recommendations in June '05
 - Highlight the unique nature of the Horse Industry while including similar recommendations of other livestock groups.
 - Dynamic Process: changes can be made, it is not a final document.
 - Available on AHC website: www.horsecouncil.org
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ESWG Recent Focus – Identification Methods

- Begin by incorporating existing ID methods:
 - Tattoo, DNA, Brand, Microchip
 - ESWG: Recommendation should focus on an Identification method most suitable for participation in NAIS.
 - RFID appears most practical at this time.
 - By establishing a uniformly accepted method such as RFID, the following conditions are met:
 - Internationally compatible, Permits 15-digit identification number, allows for compatibility
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ESWG ID Method Recommendation

- The ISO/ANSI compatible RFID chips (11784/85, 134.2 kHz) are the recommended form of electronic equine identification in order to comply with the United States National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for the purpose of disease control.
 - The recommended implantation site for the microchip is the nuchal ligament on the left side, in the middle third of the neck, halfway between the ears and the withers.
 - Use of RFID scanners that, at a minimum read 134.2kHz microchips and are able to identify the presence of a microchip in a horse. If the reader is unable to decode the chip, it must be able to identify who the manufacturer is so that the necessary reader can be obtained
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ESWG Future Focus – Tracking & Communication

- Questions to be considered on Tracking:
 - Which horses must be included in a tracking system?
 - Who reports the information?
 - Who does the information get reported to?
 - Communication with the Industry
 - ESGW Webpage Operational and Continuously Updated
 - www.horsecouncil.org
 - List of Benefits, FAQs, Press Releases – Premise Registration, White Papers – Microchip Issues and Equine Health Issues (under development), Trade Press Articles
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Conclusion

- ESGW moved very quickly at the start, has dealt with and will deal with tough issues.
- Today ESGW has Recommended Standards
- Moving Toward the Future!

