

Generic NAIS Presentation

Speaker's Notes

Slide 1: Title Slide, no notes
National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
Prepared by the Camelid ID Working Group,
Education/Outreach Subcommittee

Slide 2:
Main Agencies/Organizations:
USDA-APHIS-VS-NAIS
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal & Poultry Diseases
State animal health agencies
Non-profit animal health organizations:
 US Animal Health Association (USAHA)
 3 camelid owners serve on Livestock ID Committee
 Nat. Inst. For Animal Agriculture (NIAA)
 1 camelid owner serves on Livestock ID Committee

Notes:
APHIS – Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
VS – Veterinary Services within APHIS
NAIS – made up of 17 industry, federal and state animal health representatives. Reports to Sec. of Agric. Mike Johanns.
Each state animal health agency has a livestock ID division.
Two major non-profits with animal health focus; camelid owners are represented in both orgs.
USAHA – Karen Conyngham ILR Rep; Dr. Cheryl Tillman AOBA Rep.; ID Committee members: Teri Baird, Karen Conyngham, Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen
NIAA – Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen

Slide 3:
What is the NAIS?

A system to identify animals & track them as they come into contact with, or commingle with, animals other than herdmates from their premises of origin.

Goal:
Ability to identify all premises & animals having direct contact with a foreign animal or domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery.

In this presentation, the word “animals” covers all species of livestock, poultry & aquaculture. NAIS is not a “big brother” program; will only be implemented when there is a disease or bioterror exposure that could threaten the health of all livestock in the US. Will allow animal health officials to determine which animals may have been exposed and find those with whom they came in contact.

Halting disease exposure quickly is the goal. 48 hours max. due to the speed with which animals are transported around the US.

Faster disease can be halted, the less the impact on global trade.

Slide 4:

NAIS System Requirements:

- AIN – Animal ID Number (animal's "SSN")
 - 15 digit alphanumeric
 - example: 840123456789012
- PIN – Premises ID Number (like an address)
 - 7 digit alphanumeric
 - example: A123R69
- Movement tracking – for disease or bioterror exposure

Notes:

Animal ID number is a 15-digit alphanumeric number that will stay with the animal for its lifetime, no matter who owns it or how many times it moves. This is equivalent to a person's social security number.

The Premises ID number will remain with the property on which animals live; it is equivalent to a street address. The PIN is NOT part of the individual animal ID number (AIN)! These numbers are totally separate and will be linked only in a database.

The NAIS will be activated only when necessary to trace disease or bioterror agent exposure.

Slide 5:

Current Status of the NAIS

All states in some stage of registering premises

Premises: any location where animals live, are marketed or exhibited, or commingle.

Information collected: name of farm, individual contact name, address, phone #

Some states collect the species on the premises.

Notes:

Many states still do not have a premises ID registration form on their animal health agency web sites. Several have forms that list only "Llamas" instead of "Camelids" as the species on the premises. The CWG is working with the NAIS IT team to correct this error. "Camelids" will include llamas, alpacas, guanacos, vicunas, dromedary and bactrian camels.

Slide 6:

Current Status of the NAIS con't.

NAIS data will be accessed ONLY when needed for traceback/trace forward.

Confidentiality legislation is still pending at the federal level; some states have implemented such legislation already.

Premises ID is voluntary at present for most states.

See the link to USDA on:

www.camelidid.org

Related Links

Notes:

USDA wants to exempt the NAIS data from the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. This will require federal legislation and is not moving forward in Congress.

Premises ID is mandatory in Wisconsin; also Indiana, although NOT mandatory there for camelids. Mandatory premises ID is being considered in Texas, but there has been stiff resistance from the public on this initiative and premises registration is still voluntary there. Follow the link on the Camelidid.org web site for more details on the ID program in your state.

Slide 7:

Individual Animal ID

Owners MUST have a premises ID number before they can get an AIN.

Who will be AIN managers? Any USDA-approved source.

ILR can "list" unregistered camelids in the ILR database.

Current 125-128 kHz microchips will be 'grandfathered'. May move to 134.2 kHz over time. (134.2 microchips are pending approval by USDA 9/19/06)

Notes:

Premises ID is required before AIN will be issued.

The CWG has assurances from our USDA liaison that our existing 125-128 kHz microchips will be accepted into the NAIS. The AIN can be linked to the animal's registration # and/or to its existing microchip number. Full guidelines on the AIN process are available from USDA: <http://nais.aphis.usda.gov/ainmngt/>

Camelid registries will have to meet these requirements before they can become AIN distributors. Individual ID device companies (such as Destron or Avid) are expected to apply to become distributors.

ILR will apply to become an AIN manager and also offers a listing service to all camelid owners to facilitate the linking of a registry # to the AIN if needed.

Slide 8:

Benefits of Permanent ID

Facilitate tracing in event of disease outbreak:

Quarantine to prevent disease spread

Halt animal movement to protect unexposed animals

Assure healthy exhibition environment

Return animals in event of theft, escape or natural disaster

Facilitate import/export

Notes:

The faster a disease outbreak can be traced back to its point of origin and forward to identify other animals exposed, the fewer the number of animals that may need to be destroyed (depends on the disease).

Quarantine exposed animals, depending on the disease.

Rapid halt to movement will protect animals that could have come in contact with those exposed.

Shows, fairs, exhibitions will be a safer environment if ID is required; owners would think twice about bringing a possibly ill animal to an event.

ID is effective in the return of animals to their owners after theft, escape or disaster (fires, floods, etc. where rapid evacuation is required).

ID already required for import/export to prove the animal's identity.

Slide 9:

Benefits of Permanent ID con't.

Assure the identity of animals purchased sight-unseen

Facilitate interstate movement

Help show associations track points to the right animal;
Reduce data entry errors

Uphold camelid owners as responsible members of the national livestock community

Notes:

Animals are now bought over the Internet or by phone at auction; ID will prove the animal's identity.

May encourage more states to develop an interstate "passport" system such as the one between OR, WA. Also helpful for CVIs.

For shows, ID could be scanned and used to verify entry forms; help assure points get assigned to the right animal.

Disadvantage: at the start, shows will need to have multiple scanners on hand to read all possible chips until a "universal" scanner is developed.

Slide 10:

Possible Methods of Permanent ID

- a. Ear tags (RFID – Radio Frequency Identification)
- b. Implanted Microchip (RFID)
- c. Tattoos

Survey has been conducted to determine preference of ID method within the camelid community – Implanted microchips were preferred

ONE ID method to be recommended to USDA

Notes:

RFID means a 2-part system: the device itself which is "passive", has no batteries, but contains a microchip bearing the AIN, and the scanner or reader which generates an electrical impulse that activates the chip, causing the chip to broadcast its number back to the scanner, which then

displays the number. Microchips are an example of RFID, most ear tags will also contain a microchip as well as having the AIN printed on the tag itself. USDA has told the CWG that only ONE method will be accepted for permanent ID in camelids. ID is permanent – it cannot be changed or tampered with by law. Violation is a Federal felony. Replacement of lost ID will be permitted but a new AIN will have to be assigned and linked to the former AIN. ID survey results will be discussed later in this presentation.

Slide 11:
Implanted Microchips – Pro:

- Unobtrusive
- Tampering very difficult
- May be able to read without close confinement
- More permanent than an ear tag
- New chips have special coating to reduce migration
- Some chips offer “extras” – biothermal readout
- Recognized by ARI and ILR
- Already in widespread use in camelids

Notes:
Microchips are implanted, not a visual form of ID.
Animals that are handled often or travel frequently will likely become accustomed to being scanned; may not need to be put in a restraint chute for scanning.
Newer chips have a special coating that stimulates connective tissue growth around the chip to keep it in place; reduce migration.
Destron offers a biothermal chip that will also give a digital readout of the animal’s core body temperature along with ID number. A special reader will be needed however and it will be a bit more expensive (about \$500) than a number-only reader, at least initially. (most electronics decrease in price over time)

Microchips are already recognized as a form of ID by both registries; AOBA has mandated microchip use for alpaca show entries.
Microchip ID at the 125-128 kHz level is already in use in camelids. New AIN “840” chips will operate at 134.2 kHz but may not require a new scanner; check with your chip provider for details.

Slide 12:
Implanted Microchips – Con:

- May need reader specific to the chip being used
- May require veterinarian to do the implant – added expense
- Costlier device than ear tags
- Can be lost if not implanted properly; can be damaged
- Implant procedure more time-consuming than ear tag procedure

Notes:
At least initially, owners may have to provide scanners specific to their brand/type of microchip. If using an encrypted chip, then that specific reader will be necessary. Again check with the maker of the chip you are using for more details on reader options.

Owners may not be comfortable doing their own chip implants; veterinarian will charge to do the implant. Check with your state animal health agency or veterinary medical association to determine if chip implantation is considered a veterinary procedure in your state.

Microchips are perhaps 3 times as expensive as ear tags.

Implants could be lost if not inserted carefully (could fall out at the point of insertion – work arounds for that: use a drop of super glue to seal the insertion site; use finger to position the chip at an angle to the insertion point so the chip cannot readily fall out.) or could be accidentally crushed after insertion.

Implant procedure: scan the chip inside the package to be sure the chip # matches the # on the package labels. Have proper insertion needle; small plastic ones may not be sturdy enough for use in camelids. Scan the chip *after* implant to be sure it is there. Scan again daily for 7 days until connective tissue forms.

Same procedure should be followed for RFID ear tags as well but those don't need daily post-insertion scanning.

Slide 13:

CWG Recommendation to USDA

#1. For participation in the NAIS, the Camelid ID Working Group (CWG) recommends the implanted microchip as the preferred method for identification of camelids.

(approved by industry 8/18/06)

- Based upon current Registry statistics
 - ~50% registered alpacas microchipped
 - ~10% registered llamas microchipped
- Preferred method per industry survey (93%)

Notes:

1st draft recommendation issued July 18, comment period closed Aug. 18 2006.

Recommendation based on the level of usage in the camelid community (more than 10% of llamas and about 50% of alpacas are already chipped) and results of spring 2006 survey. Full background on the initial recommendation is posted on the CWG web site:

www.camelidid.org/recommendations/

Slide 14:

Animal Movement Tracking

Producers may be free to use any data management service they choose.

Many entities to choose from

ILR interested in being a provider

Not known if ARI is interested

USDA is still developing this portion of the NAIS

As of 8/30/05, tracking has been privatized

Requirements/costs to producer not yet known

Notes:

USDA is still developing the data management section of the NAIS, but producers may be able to use any service they choose, as long as that service has met the USDA requirements.

ILR is interested in providing movement tracking service for the camelid community. Not known if ARI is likewise interested.

There will be federal standards that database providers will need to meet; these requirements have not yet been established by USDA.

Many livestock sectors are angry with the 8/30 decision to privatize the tracking database. That was the sector of the NAIS that the federal government would have funded. With this change by USDA, NAIS costs are now completely borne by producers.

As of November 7, 2005, USDA proposed to have a "portal" leading to different databases that could track animal movement for various species. These databases might be administered and funded either by the species groups (e.g., breed registries) or by commercial database vendors (Digital Angel is already publicizing their tracking database). The individual states might also apply to the USDA to be allowed to track movement since several states have laws that prohibit movement tracking data being held privately. All reported movement data would be accessed when necessary by animal health officials via this USDA portal. Again, the costs to report movements to these private databases are not yet known. In a document released by USDA February 23, 2006, USDA notes: "This component will likely take years to establish".

Slide 15:

When Will a Camelid Need Permanent ID?

When leaving premises of origin

When attending an event where commingling takes place

When being intermixed with animals other than herdmates from home premises

If animal never leaves home, it does NOT need ID

Permanent ID is not yet mandatory by USDA for camelids

States may require ID before USDA mandates it

Notes:

Animals will need to be identified when they are sold or leave their premises of origin and will be commingled with animals from other farms/ranches. Movement to informal events such as parades, hikes, local fairs, trips to the vet, etc. can be tracked by the owners without being formally reported to USDA.

Shows might eventually require permanent ID; AOBA already has this requirement.

Initial species for which ID will be mandatory are cattle and swine. Further federal rule-making will be required before other species incorporated into permanent ID at the federal level. State regulations can be more restrictive than federal ones; states can require permanent ID in specific species before USDA does. Example, MO already requires permanent ID of camelids before they can be exhibited in the state.

Sec. Johanns has stated that the NAIS will remain voluntary for all species until at least 2009.

Slide 16:

Transition to the NAIS

Anticipate initial guidelines for movement tracking in 2006

Further federal rule-making will be coming; comments are taken before final rules are implemented.

Notes:

Although interstate movement can already be tracked by use of CVI, a formal NAIS protocol is in development. May need a plan to track intrastate movement also.

Federal rule-making requires posting of a proposed protocol in the Federal Register; a comment period follows for producer input. Comments are reviewed by USDA and amendments made to the proposed rule before it is made final.

Slide 17:

Work Completed by the CWG:

Determined that camelids have no unique premises

Submitted a status report to USDA 9/2004

Updated status report 8/2006

Submitted docket comment to Fed. Reg. 6/2005 requesting grandfathering in of existing microchips

Issue frequent press releases

Established web site: www.camelidid.org

ID survey conducted in early 2006

Notes:

All the referenced documents are available on the camelidid.org web site.

The Working Group also submitted a comment to the Federal Register docket on microchip scanners, requesting the ready availability of a true universal scanner (one that can READ, not just detect the presence, of ALL chips) before the NAIS becomes mandatory.

Slide 18:

Camelid ID Survey Feb. 7 – Mar. 11, 2006

- 1756 total responses: 1270 own alpacas, 789 llamas, 6 guanacos, 1 vicuna, 13 crossbreeds, 6 bactrians, 18 dromedaries
- Current methods of ID in use:

Notes:

The CWG conducted an opinion survey from Feb. 7 – March 11, 2006. Full survey results are posted on the ID web site.

Slide 19:

ID Survey Results con't.

Current microchip implant sites:

Notes:

The base of the left ear is the most commonly used implant site for microchips currently in use.

Slide 20:

ID Survey Results con't.

Preferred method of ID for future use:

Notes:

Implanted microchips were clearly preferred as the ONE single method of ID to be used in camelids in the future.

Several questions were asked regarding preferences for tracking camelid movement. 91% of respondents were NOT interested in having a database track their personal herd management information.

50% felt they needed more information before they could determine what entity or entities they would prefer to track camelid movement.

Slide 21:

Industry Concerns with NAIS

Current 125 – 128 kHz chips must be accepted for the lifetime of the animal

USDA NAIS liaison to the CWG thinks USDA will accept “grandfathering” of our existing chips

Owners do NOT want to have to re-chip animals

(no notes for this slide)

Slide 22:

Industry Concerns with NAIS con't.

- Cost to producers for both identification and tracking
- Increase in number of rescue animals?
- Confidentiality of information
- Reduce the level of interest in owning camelids?
- Regulation of industry

Notes:

These are recurring questions posed to members of the CWG. There is a fear that owners may not be able to afford to keep their animals, resulting in an increase in “rescue” situations. Others fear that the NAIS will be cumbersome enough to prevent new people from purchasing camelids.

Slide 23:

Challenges for the CWG

Survey owners for their preferred method of ID

If microchips, determine best implant site

Incorporate camels into the plan

Develop movement tracking plan
Develop transition plan and timeline

Notes:

The WG's Education/Outreach subcommittee will continue to issue press releases and keep the web site updated with the latest information on the NAIS.

Slide 24 :
CWG Future Tasks

Establish subcommittees for:
Specifications on implanted microchips
Detailed plan for movement tracking
Camelid epidemiology

Conditions for industry participation in NAIS:
Grandfathering of existing chips
Confidentiality of data assured
Minimal cost to producers

Notes:

The working group was restructured in late July 2006. Three new subcommittees were established to review these areas; full WG will review the conditions for industry participation.

Microchip subcommittee will consider:

Insertion site(s) to be used?
Chip frequency to be used? Move to ISO (134.2 kHz)? Phase-in timeline if move to ISO?
Universal scanner ready availability is critical

Movement tracking subcommittee will consider:

Reportable vs. recordable events
When to report and to whom?
Can registries track for that species? Are registries willing to do this chore?
What role might show associations or show venues have?

Epidemiology subcommittee will compile a detailed list of diseases of concern for camelids.

Slide 25:

Growth of the New World Camelid population in North America

Notes:

Llamas and alpacas were imported primarily from S. America in the early 1980s; the industry has had sustained growth.

The registries were established in 1986. The lama registry was a compilation of the Llama Assn. Of N. America's tattoo registry, the Intl. Llama Association's camelid ID database and the stud books of the Patterson Ranch.

These figures reflect only registered animals; there are an unknown number of unregistered alpacas and the ILR estimates 10% of llamas are not registered. There is no camel registry or owners association hence their population is unknown. Recent growth has been higher in the alpaca sector than in the llama sector.

Slide 26:
Camelid & Owner Population Statistics
(for state/region in which presentation is given)

Notes:

Top five camelid owning states:

Alpacas: Ohio	9,000 (668 owner codes)
Washington	6,578 (416 owner codes)
Oregon	5,063 (406 owner codes)
Colorado	4,046 (496 owner codes)
California	3,911 (428 owner codes)

Llamas: Oregon	13,500 (1956 owners)
California	12,313 (2245 owners)
Texas	10,900 (1815 owners)
Washington	10,400 (1782 owners)
Ohio	8,089 (1485 owners)

Slide 27:
WG members

Slide 28:
Questions?
Teri Baird / Julie Ann Jarvinen contact info