

Frequently Asked Questions About Premise Identification For 4-Hers

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Why is a national animal traceability program needed?

A national system is needed to help protect American animal agriculture from foreign or domestic disease threats. Fundamental to controlling any disease threat is a system that quickly and effectively identifies individual animals or groups; the premise where they are located; and the date of entry to that premise. Identifying all food and livestock animals will enhance disease preparedness by allowing the U.S. to identify and locate any animals exposed to disease and will facilitate stopping its spread.

Is the premise ID program mandatory?

Indiana state law requires premise identification for all sites associated with the purchase, sale, or exhibition of livestock in the state of Indiana.

What are the benefits for 4-Hers to participate in the premise ID program?

Registration provides government animal health agencies essential contact information (name, phone number, address) for livestock owners. That data can be accessed in an animal health emergency to speed notification. Faster notification is essential to the rapid containment and control of disease. That translates into faster eradication and recovery from a potential economic disaster.

Premise ID is especially useful for exhibitors. Exhibition livestock regularly commingle at fairs and shows; this can cause animals to be more susceptible to disease. Premise ID makes traceback of these animals much simpler.

What species are included in Indiana's premise ID program?

Indiana's rule includes mandatory registration for cattle/bison, cervids, swine, sheep and goats. Poultry and aquaculture are also part of Indiana's plan. Although it is not mandatory, equine and camelids may be registered voluntarily.

Do scrapie program flocks need to register?

Flock owners enrolled in the scrapie program will still need to enroll; however, enrollment will be more like updating your information. We need to be sure that, should an emergency occur, we have the contact information for the flock/herd, verified locations of

the animals--the scrapie program only requires a mailing address, not physical locations of animals—and determination if the operation needs more than one premise ID number. We also need information on what other species, if any, are present on the sites.

What about my scrapie ID number?

The premise ID number to be assigned under this program will not replace or alter your scrapie flock or tag numbers. While we cannot say “never”, we can tell you that for the immediate future, scrapie program participants should continue to use their flock numbers and tag their animals as they have been, regardless of the premise registration number.

What information will be collected in the database?

The information needs for registering a premise are little more than a telephone book: Name, address and phone number(s) for primary and secondary contacts for the animals housed at each premise. General information on species and operation type are included.

Is individual animal identification required?

Currently, individual (and group) animal identification is not required. The first step of this three-phase program is to identify premises where animals are housed. Indiana law, however, requires individual identification of livestock for specific purposes.

What about my 4-H tag, nose printing, etc.?

4-H eartagging and nose printing are excellent tools to identify individual 4-H animals and will continue to be required in Indiana. However, premise identification identifies a specific piece of property not a specific animal. Try to imagine the eartag or nose print is like the animal’s “name tag”, whereas the premise ID number is like the animal’s “address”.

What is a premise? And how do I know if I need more than one?

Each state is establishing a workable definition of a premise and guidelines for assigning more than one to a single animal owner.

In Indiana, every animal site that has a unique 911 or postal address should have its own premise ID. Different numbers should also be issued for sites not contiguous within an operation. (Land separated by only a county road may be considered contiguous.)

Facilities for animals at different stages of production (for example, calves, heifers, milking cows, etc.) may be one premise, if all are on the same piece of contiguous land. Only one number is needed when multiple species are on the same premise.

The premise number is linked to a physical piece of property and will remain as such, regardless of ownership of the animals present.

Does every 4-Her need his/her own premise identification number?

Each 4-Her will not need their own number. The numbers are assigned to a specific piece of property where animals are located. If multiple 4-Hers keep animals on one premise, then the premise number will be the same for each of the 4-Hers with animals residing at that location.

Who should register the premise?

The individual who owns the property should register the premise; however, the person who owns or is responsible for the livestock should be listed as the primary contact for the premise. If multiple livestock owners house animals at one premise, the primary caretaker should be listed as the primary contact.

Where do I get a premise ID?

There are several ways to register. You may download the forms at:

<http://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm>

Registration forms may also be picked up at your local county extension office or Farm Service Agency. You may also obtain forms from the Indiana Beef Cattlemen's Association, Indiana Pork Producers' Association or the Indiana Horse Council. These forms will need to be filled out and sent to the BOAH office at 4154 N. Keystone Ave.; Indianapolis, IN 46205. Registration can also be completed by calling 317/544-2381.

Where can I go to obtain more information about this plan?

Visit the BOAH Web site at <http://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm> or call 317/544-2381.