

Frequently Asked Questions About Premise Identification

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Why is a national animal identification system 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 premise ID 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 producers 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.

Who will have access to information in the premise ID databases?

Only state and federal health officials will have access to the premise and animal ID information when performing their duties to maintain the health of the national herd. Proper safeguards are being put in place to ensure that the data is protected from public disclosure.

What species are included in the premise ID program?

Indiana is currently developing a rule to include 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 register 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, as this will not change.

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 (such as finishing unit) are included.

If a person raises animals for his or her own use and the animals never leave the owner's property, does the premise need to be registered?

Indiana requires registration of all premises associated with livestock that are bought, sold and/or exhibited. (Exceptions are horses, camelids, ostrich, rheas and emus, which may be registered voluntarily.)

All livestock and poultry owners are encouraged to register their premises to help animal health officials notify those at risk in a disease emergency.

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.

Can animals be identified as a group?

Ultimately, as BOAH moves from premise identification to animal identification, an animal production system will be able to use group/lot identification if the owner is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of state animal health officials that, through group identification and production records, trace-back to all premises with direct contacts of a suspect animal can occur within 48 hours, and that the potential for commingling does not exist. Each group will be identified with a unique and standardized number. Verifiable records will be required to further document premises ID and dates of movement.

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.

Where do I get a premise ID?

There are several ways to register. You may download the forms at: <http://www.in.gov/boah/>. Click on "Premise ID" located in the left side navigation.

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.

What forms of animal identification will be used?

The forms of animal identification have not yet been determined. Nationally, species groups are helping to design a system that may or may not use accompanying visible ID.

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

Visit the BOAH Web site at www.in.gov/boah or call 317/544-2381.