

# Just the Facts

## Simple Answers to Common Premise ID Questions

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) requires all premises involved with the purchase, sale or exhibition be registered by Sept. 1, 2006. Livestock considered mandatory in Indiana's program include cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats and captive deer and elk. Indiana's premise registration program is voluntary for horse and poultry owners.

Registration is free, fairly simple and the information required is minimal. In fact, most registration information can be found in a phone book—contact(s), addresses and phone number, along with the species of animals (i.e. cattle or hogs) held at the location.

### **Dispelling Rumors, Myths & Misinformation**

#### ***I have only one animal, so why do I need to have any premises identified?***

Your one animal may be as susceptible to disease as the herd or flock with hundreds. In the event of disease, state and federal animal health veterinarians and inspectors must ensure that all disease is stamped out. Going door-to-door to locate susceptible animals that must be tested or vaccinated is inefficient and costly!

Wouldn't you want to know if a disease incident occurs in your area, so you can take proper precautions? Identifying all premises enables efficient and effective response to disease.

#### ***I read that dogs and cats are included.***

No. Premise ID involves livestock only. Some of the species included are cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats and captive deer and elk. Indiana's premise registration program is voluntary for horse and poultry owners.

#### ***I have to identify my pet animals...***

Non-livestock pet animals are not included in the premise ID program.

#### ***I have to identify animals used for my food.***

When animal identification goes into effect, only the animal(s) that leave their premise or origin will be identified. If you haul your calf, pig or other animals to the local slaughter plant for custom processing for your consumption, the animal may not need to be identified.

#### ***Reports say you're going to charge \$1,000 a day for not participating!***

Although BOAH does have the authority to impose non-compliance penalties, that is certainly not the goal. BOAH encouraged producers to have their premises registered prior to the Sept. 1 2006 deadline; nevertheless, if producers have yet to register, BOAH staff will make every effort to identify unregistered producers and help them become part of the program.

#### ***This ID program was made just to benefit the "big producer!"***

BOAH strives to support and protect **all** of Indiana's livestock industry, from the small local producer to the large production farm. Likewise, this program includes all producers, regardless of size.

#### ***I don't sell overseas; why should I care about animal ID?***

In today's global economy, the product from the animal you sell at the local livestock market could end up on the dinner table in one of many countries.

Although the program will aid in marketing U.S. products, its greatest advantage will be to make disease response here at home faster, more effective and more efficient.



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***I'll have to call the "government" each time I ride my horse, haul my sheep or take my pigs to a show.***

That is not necessary; however, please call if you have questions, would like disease information, or need entry regulations for shows or travel. Common everyday movements are not expected to be required. Emphasis nationally has been on recording, not reporting. Livestock owners should always keep records of movements, as part of a good biosecurity plan.

***Horses aren't food animals. They don't need to be included.***

Currently, registering horses for Indiana's premise ID program is not mandatory; however, horse owners are welcome and encouraged to sign up. The Premise ID isn't a food safety program. It is a tool to address animal disease. Horses are susceptible to a number of diseases. Also, during a disease outbreak, horses may be "caught up" in movement restrictions or requirements, even if they are not susceptible to the disease. Because viruses and bacteria can be carried on hooves and hides of animals, vehicles, clothing and equipment horse movements could be restricted in a disease situation.

***Will I report every time I ride my horse?***

Registering horses in Indiana's premise ID program is not mandatory. The National Equine Species Working Group, in a recent document states: "Not every single movement of a horse will have to be reported. Movements such as local trail rides or shows wouldn't be required reportable events. It is likely that movements would be reportable when horses are transported interstate or to a premise where a brand inspection, certificate of veterinary inspection or other health papers are required."

***I already have a scrapie number.***

The scrapie number, used for sheep and some goats, is not automatically "rolled over" to a premise registration number. Because the scrapie initiative addresses only sheep and goats, information about other species of animals that may be living on your premise would be left out. The purpose of the premise ID program was to include all forms of livestock, not just sheep and goats.

***How about 4-H and FFA kids?***

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 will make traceback of these animals much simpler. Each 4-Her will not need his/her 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-members with animals residing at that location.

***Where do I buy the tags?***

The current program is a premise ID program. Individual animal identification is not a part of premise ID; therefore, tagging is not currently required. Many companies have developed electronic identification tags along with many other types of identification. Although these products may be beneficial in your operation, BOAH is not mandating a specific type of identification. National species working groups will play an integral part in determining what types of ID will be most effective for their respective species.