

## UPDATE *Equine Identification in the US*

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AATA Annual Meeting  
May 2005

## *US National Animal Identification System*

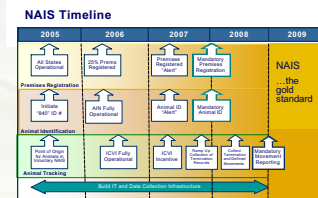
- ★ NAIS Progress - Phase 1  
Premises Registration
  - ★ Number of States - **45**
  - ★ Number of Tribes - **5**
  - ★ Total number of Premises Registered:  
(as of 4/17/05) **56,907**

## *US National Animal Identification System*

- ★ Phase 2 - Animal Identification Number Management System
- ★ Animal Identification & Tracking Systems
  - ★ Standardized Animal ID & Tracking System
  - ★ Compliant Animal ID & Tracking System
- ★ National Animal Records Repository

## *US National Animal Identification System*

- ★ USDA DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN -  
May 2005



## *Equine Species Working Group*

- ★ Established January 2004
- ★ 35 industry reps & Animal Health officials
- ★ 5 face to face meetings since inception
- ★ Hold bi-monthly conference calls – or when more often necessary
- ★ Subcommittees to address major concerns
- ★ Steering Committee- to coordinate working group activities and initiatives

## *Equine Species Working Group*

- ★ AAEP
- ★ AHC
- ★ APHA
- ★ HTA
- ★ Jockey Club
- ★ NCHA
- ★ PRCA
- ★ TRA/TRPB
- ★ USEF
- ★ USTA
- ★ Other breeds
- ★ Transporters
- ★ Endurance
- ★ USDA
- ★ State Veterinarians

## *Equine Species Working Group*

### ✦ Main Focus:

- ✦ Identification Methods
- ✦ AIN - UELN
- ✦ Tracking
- ✦ Communication

## *Equine ID Methods - preferences*

### ✦ Begin by incorporating existing ID methods:

- ✦ Tattoo
- ✦ DNA
- ✦ Brand
- ✦ Microchip

## *Equine ID Methods - preferences*



## *Equine ID Methods - preferences*

### ✦ Recommendation to focus on:

#### ✦ Method of Identification that will be best for participation in NAIS – ESWG steering toward microchip

- ✦ issues to be addressed are divisive
  - ✦ ISO 11784/85 Microchips (135.2 khz) vs. Encrypted Chips (125 khz)
  - ✦ Other forms and uses of id methods

## *ISO Compliant RFID (11784/11785)*

### ✦ Vendors invited to Denver to discuss their products

- ✦ Avid
  - ✦ Digital Angel
  - ✦ Further discussion at NIAA mtg. - Crystal Imports & Whatman, Inc. participate
- ### ✦ RFID Discussion focused on need for universality of readers
- ✦ Another divisive issue

## *ISO Compliant RFID (11784/11785)*

### ✦ Factors in Favor of Recommending 11784/85 chips and Readers

- ✦ International Nature of Horse Industry
- ✦ Large # of Imported Horses with Chips Currently Unreadable in U.S.
- ✦ Offers more choices for horse owners

## ISO Compliant RFID (11784/11785)

### Concerns:

- ✦ Security??
- ✦ Some horses already chipped with encrypted chips

## Equine ID Methods - Preferences

- ✦ Proposed Recommendation Currently Under Consideration by ESWG:
  - ✦ Recommendation #13: Whenever appropriate, equine identification systems currently in use should be incorporated into the national equine identification program.

## Equine ID Methods - Preferences

### Recommendation #13A:

- ✦ 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.

## Equine ID Methods - Preferences

### Recommendation #13B:

- ✦ 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.

## UELN as AIN

- ✦ Universal Equine Lifetime Number
- ✦ **ONE** number per horse for its lifetime
- ✦ International Compatible with pedigree registries and other horse databases around the world.
- ✦ Could protect the integrity of existing pedigree registry registration numbers.

## UELN as AIN

- ✦ Meets ISO number standards
  - ✦ i.e. 3-digit country code plus 12 digits not random –

<i>country code</i>	<i>Breed code</i>	<i>registration # (or other)</i>
<u>8 4 0</u>	<u>9 8 8</u>	<u>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9</u>

## *UELN as AIN*

- ✦ If use UELN as the AIN for horses:
  - ✦ Need to reserve AIN numbers that meet UELN
    - ✦ Estimated 32 million numbers needed
  - ✦ ESWG Recommendation not yet determined
- ✦ Problem: In US, only USDA able to distribute the 840 number for official use

## *ESWG Concerns-Tracking*

- ✦ Which horses must be included in a tracking system?
  - ✦ Divisive issue
  - ✦ Seems overwhelming to ESWG members
  - ✦ Fear that weekend gatherings will be overburdened with reporting responsibilities and therefore discouraged.

## *ESWG Accomplishments*

- ✦ 16 Recommendations submitted to USDA
  - ✦ Some already under revision
  - ✦ Highlight Unique Nature of Horse Industry but includes similar recommendations of other livestock groups
  - ✦ Available on AHC website: [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)

## *ESWG Recommendations*

- ✦ Equine industry in control
- ✦ Compatible internationally
- ✦ Preserve existing horse ID systems
- ✦ Voluntary participation to start
- ✦ Identification begins with:
  - ✦ Breed registration processes
  - ✦ Certificates of Veterinary Health Inspections
- ✦ Affordable for owners and stake holders
- ✦ Microchips as primary method of identification
- ✦ Transfers of ownership must be recorded with appropriate breed registry and database

## *ESWG Projects*

- ✦ Researching RFID Microchip Technology & Identification Protocols
- ✦ Reviewing Unique Equine Life Number
- ✦ Pilot Projects in Florida & Colorado
- ✦ Kentucky TEAM Grant Proposal
- ✦ Timeline:
  - ✦ Premise ID in 2004-2006
  - ✦ Pilot Projects in 2005-2006
  - ✦ Voluntary Horse ID in 2005-2006
  - ✦ Track Movements in 2006-2007
  - ✦ Mandatory in 2010

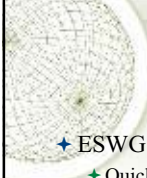
## *ESWG Accomplishments*

- ✦ Communications
    - ✦ List of Benefits
    - ✦ FAQ's for horse industry
    - ✦ Notice of Premises Registration
  - ✦ Items Under Development:
    - ✦ White Paper on Microchip Issues - completed
    - ✦ White Paper on Equine Health Issues
- All available at [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)



## *What's Next in Equine ID*

- ✦ USDA to publish NAIS Strategic plan (May) & NAIS Update (June?)
- ✦ Pilot Project funding applications for KY TEAM, outcome of CO & FL projects, & others
- ✦ California & Kentucky racing commissions considering microchips for horse ID entering & leaving tracks
- ✦ Final recommendations from ESGW – timeline, UELN, RFID
- ✦ NCBA advocating livestock industry NAIS database



## *Conclusion*

- ✦ ESGW moved very quickly at Start
  - ✦ Quick to embrace need for NAIS
- ✦ Despite good start -
  - ✦ Working Group bogged down in tough issues
  - ✦ Uncertainty and difficulty in conceiving how NAIS will work caused confusion
  - ✦ Denver Discussion very tough – helped focus everyone
- ✦ Today ESGW moving more solidly toward recommended standards – Moving toward future

