

## National Animal Identification System Hawai'i NAIS Program

### For more information:

animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais  
animalscience.ucdavis.edu/AnimalID  
imic.info/memberspublic/animalID/AnimalID.htm

### UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service, Livestock Extension Agents:

Hilo—Michael DuPonte, 808-981-5199  
Kona—Glen Fukumoto, 808-322-4892  
Līhue—Matthew Stevenson, 808-274-3471  
Ho'olehua—Glenn Teves, 808-567-6932  
Kahului—John Powley, 808-244-3242  
Honolulu: (808) 956-7138, or Halina Zaleski, PhD, Swine Specialist, (808) 956-7594

### Or:

Mark Thorne, PhD  
CTAHR Range Extension Specialist  
67-5189 Kamāmalu Road  
Kamuela, HI 96743-8439  
Phone: (808) 887-6183  
Fax: (808) 887-6182  
E-mail: thornem@hawaii.edu

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# National Animal Identification System

## Phase 1: Premises Identification



**Cooperative Extension Service**  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

## What Is NAIS?

**NAIS, the National Animal Identification System**, is part of an ongoing effort to safeguard U.S. animal health. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiated implementation of NAIS in 2004.

NAIS is a nationwide animal tracking system intended to protect livestock industries, assure the public about food safety, and ensure national food security. Its goal is to identify and track animals throughout their lifetime to permit rapid response to animal disease outbreaks.

The program is a cooperative partnership between state and federal agencies and livestock industries. Its purpose is to standardize animal identification programs and practices and extend them to all livestock species and poultry.

NAIS is being initiated in Hawai'i through its first component: *premises identification*. The long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide animal health officials with the capability to identify all livestock and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery.

NAIS is currently a voluntary program. NAIS is designed not only to provide the results necessary to maintain the health of Hawai'i's livestock but also to be a program that is practical for producers and all others involved in livestock production.



### Program objectives

- Rapidly contain and eradicate animal disease events.
- Focus the scope of response to affected areas or herds.
- Trace disease to source within 48 hours.

### Program components

- *Premises identification:*  
Account for each physical location that handles livestock.
- *Animal identification:*  
Label each individual or group of livestock with a unique number.
- *Animal tracking:*  
Identify all animals that have been in contact with a diseased individual.

# National Animal Identification System—Premises Identification

## Premises identification overview

To track animals, animal health officials must know where they are born and where they are moved. Therefore, identifying locations that manage or hold animals—referred to as premises—is the starting point of the NAIS.

Eventually, NAIS will allow animal health officials to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery. As an information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained and eradicated as quickly as possible.

## What is a “premises”?

For the purposes of NAIS, premises are locations where animals are born, exhibited, housed, fed, marketed, or commingled with other animals, regardless of the size of operation.

## What is premises registration?

To track animals, health officials must know where they are born and to where they are moved. Identifying locations that manage or hold animals, or premises, is the first step of the NAIS. Each premises will be identified with a unique seven-character label known as a Premises Identification Number.



## Why register?

Tracing an animal to each premises used during its lifetime allows health officials to respond in a rapid and focused manner to animal disease outbreaks (BSE, for example), thus maintaining animal health, consumer satisfaction, and market access.

## Who should register?

Those who should register include large-animal veterinary service providers, feed stores with live animals, slaughter facilities, and owners or operators of any locations that feed, produce, hold for transport, service, market, or exhibit:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| cattle, bison | horses        |
| swine         | poultry       |
| sheep         | deer, elk     |
| goats         | llama, alpaca |



## What information is required to register my premises?

In Hawai‘i, the following information is needed to register a location:

- business (farm) name
- primary contact person’s name
- business (farm) mailing address
- phone numbers
- operation type
- premises name and description
- premises address (physical location)

## What if I manage several locations, or ones that do not have an address?

Each location that produces, houses, markets, or exhibits livestock owned or operated by your business should be described on the application. If no address exists (for example, a leased pasture

separate from the home ranch), a tax map key, GPS coordinates, or route directions (using road names and north/south/east/west instructions) will be needed to describe the location.

## If I register my premises, will the government know how many animals I own and sell?

No. Premises registration does not involve recording of animal ownership and reporting of numbers of livestock at a location.

## Is the information I provide secure and protected?

Any premises-related information will be kept in a secure USDA database. Access to this information will be provided only to state and federal animal health veterinarians. Industry has been adamant that information stored in NAIS is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and is not to be shared with other agencies.

## How do I register?

Visit the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture website:

<http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/ai/ldc/HAPIS>

Or, contact:  
Division of Animal Industry  
99-941 Halawa Valley St.  
Aiea, HI 96701  
Phone: (808) 483-7129