

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## *Animal Tracing*

**Q: *What is animal tracing?***

A: Animal tracing is the ability of animal health officials to use movement records to quickly determine where infected animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them. Animal tracing makes it easier to determine the scope of an animal disease event and locate potentially infected or exposed animals more quickly.

**Q: *Am I required to report animal movements?***

A: In NAIS, it is your choice to report animal movements. If you do choose to report an animal movement activity, you can choose which of the NAIS-compliant Animal Tracking Databases (ATDs) you would like to use.

However, NAIS does not replace or take precedence over State brand laws or other State reporting requirements regarding animal movement activity.

**Q: *Why should I report animal movements?***

A: When there is a disease outbreak or animal health event, the ATDs provide timely, accurate records that show where your animals have been and what other animals have come into contact with them. This will allow animal health officials to know whether or not your animals might potentially be affected and take appropriate steps to protect their health. Your animals can also be excluded from disease suspicion.

**Q: *What types of movements should be reported?***

A: The suggestions on which movements to report are based upon the risk of disease transmission.

Movements of your animals to other locations (or premises) where they come into contact with numerous other animals from various locations is referred to as “commingling.” When animals commingle, the chance of coming into contact with or spreading disease is increased, and therefore, these movements are the most important to report.

Movements of animals within your own farm/ranch boundaries, including non-contiguous locations if under the same management, have a lower risk of animal disease transmission. These would be a lower priority to report, if they are reported at all. Animal movement activity and location changes can also be recorded in production management records as part of a herd/flock biosecurity program.

**Q: *How do I report animal movements?***

A: Reporting varies depending on the ATD used. Contact information for all NAIS-compliant ATDs can be found at:  
[http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS\\_ATDs\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS_ATDs_for_web.pdf)

**Q: *Is there a cost associated with reporting animal movements?***

A: There may be a cost associated with using an ATD to report animal movements, depending on what system is used. Some ATDs are private, while others are managed by a State department of agriculture. You will need to contact the ATD for pricing information:  
[http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS\\_ATDs\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/naislibrary/documents/guidelines/NAIS_ATDs_for_web.pdf)

**Q: *How will USDA and others use this information?***

A: During an animal health event where a disease traceback or investigation is required, authorized State and/or Federal animal health officials will request necessary animal movement data from the various private or State-owned systems using the Animal Trace Processing System (ATPS). The ATPS, a Federal software application, is used to post a request for information regarding the location and movements of suspect animals.

Records specifically related to the investigation and defined in the request will be made available to animal health officials. This involves only the AIN/GIN, PIN, date, and event code such as move-in, move-out information, for specific animals on specific dates.

The animal health officials will use this information to locate potentially infected animals and take appropriate action to prevent further spread of the disease.

## **Additional Information**

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For more information about NAIS, contact:

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