

Premises Registration

The concept of identifying premises is not new. Like animal identification, Federal-State animal health programs have utilized numbers to locate herds and flocks for decades, but the numbers were often specific to a certain disease program. For example, when a herd was tested for brucellosis or tuberculosis, it would be entered into a generic database at the State level using location identifiers unique to the brucellosis or tuberculosis disease program.

Problems occurred with this approach because there was no way to prevent more than one herd record from being created for a single location, short of the data entry person completing an exhaustive search across multiple systems. Inconsistency in naming operations could also cause problems. For instance, if “Smith Farms” was entered into the brucellosis database, it might also be entered into the tuberculosis database as “Smith and Sons, Ltd.” or “S & S Farms.”

One goal of NAIS is to standardize the identification of premises across the United States—by establishing a consistent, national data format—so that animal health officials can locate producers quickly in a given area. This is vital to quickly containing animal diseases.

For the purposes of NAIS, a “premises” is the geographic location where animals are raised, housed, or boarded. Such locations include farms, ranches, other production units, veterinary clinics, markets, abattoirs (harvest facilities), rendering facilities, ports of entry, laboratories, boarding facilities, exhibitions, and any other location where livestock and poultry are kept. The goal of premises registration is to establish a complete record of all locations, or premises, in the United States that manage or hold livestock and/or poultry.



Obtaining a PIN

All animal owners and veterinary clinics that have handling facilities for large animals are encouraged to obtain a PIN, regardless of the number of animals present, because many animal diseases (such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, and vesicular stomatitis) can spread whether an animal leaves its home premises or not. Premises registration forms are available on many State department of agriculture Web sites, or by contacting the State, Territory, or Tribal NAIS Administrator by mail or phone. State animal health authorities are also available to answer any questions about premises registration and/or the application process. The USDA NAIS Web site has an interactive map with a link to each of the 50 States; to request a PIN, visit: www.usda.gov/nais/getPIN. In addition, each State has a NAIS Administrator; to access this directory, visit: http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/contact_us/directories.shtml

PREMISES REGISTRATION

KEY POINTS

- Premises Registration provides the opportunity for producers who are not a part of a disease program to voluntarily participate in national animal health safeguarding efforts. (States have the right to mandate participation, and some do.)
- It is free.
- The application process is quick and simple. It requires completing a short form with contact information. From this information, a nationally unique PIN is assigned.
- Individuals' private information and confidential business information is protected from disclosure by Federal law.
- Obtaining a PIN does not obligate participation in the other two components of NAIS.



The Premises Identification Number

When a livestock producer, animal owner, veterinary clinic, or other individual/entity requests a PIN, a nationally unique, seven-digit alpha-numeric code is permanently assigned to the geophysical location by a national allocator that validates that location. An example of a PIN would be A123R69.

Similar to a rural 911 address used by first responders to pinpoint the location of an emergency, the PIN allows animal health officials to quickly locate animals that might be affected by an animal disease event.

If there is no mailing address at the property, geographic coordinates—latitude and longitude—and driving directions from the closest major highway intersection can be used instead to describe the location. (This does not provide any satellite tracking capability of either animals or people living at the premises.)

How PINs Work

Knowing where animals are actually located (premises identification) and how to reach owners and veterinarians is fundamental to an animal disease traceability system that supports a rapid, accurate, and cost-effective animal disease response. Premises information can also be used to quickly define which regions of our country are not affected by an outbreak—keeping markets open for unaffected producers and preventing unnecessary movement restrictions.

Obtaining a PIN ensures that animal owners and veterinarians receive the information they need to protect their animals and their investments in the event of a disease outbreak or natural disaster. When needed, animal health officials will be able to quickly locate affected and at-risk animals and take precise actions to address the situation, minimize hardships, and speed disease control and/or eradication efforts as much as possible.



PINs in Action

In 2006, Colorado animal health officials used premises data to quickly locate livestock and contact producers in blizzard-affected areas to better meet animal and producers' needs. Additionally, because many of the roads were impassable, helicopters were able to locate farms using their geophysical coordinates and drop much-needed feed to the animals.

Wisconsin was the first State to mandate premises registration. Because of this, animal health officials were able to notify horse owners in the area rapidly when West Nile virus was diagnosed.



Change of Ownership or Participation in Premises Registration

If an owner sells his/her farm, ranch, or veterinary clinic, the next owner will use the original PIN that was assigned to that location and update the contact information. If a PIN had not been previously assigned, the new owner can obtain a PIN for that location. To find out if the location has already been assigned a PIN, contact the State, Territory, or Tribal NAIS Administrator.

If, for some reason, you or your client decides to no longer participate in premises registration, there is a procedure to opt out and remove your PIN from the system. Contact your State, Territory, or Tribal NAIS Administrator for more details.

Information Associated With PINs

When an individual requests a PIN, the following pieces of information are collected and stored in the National Premises Information Repository (NPIR):

- Premises identification number (PIN);
- Name of entity;
- Owner or appropriate contact person;
- Street address, city, State, and Zip or postal code (or latitude/longitude coordinates) of the premises;
- Contact phone number;
- Operation type (e.g, farm, ranch, veterinary clinic, market, packing plant, abattoir, boarding facility, rendering facility, port of entry, laboratory, exhibit, etc.);
- Species at premises;
- Date activated, date retired, and the reason retired (to determine whether animals still exist at the location); and,
- Alternative phone numbers.

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For single site operations, the farm name is an appropriate entity. For multiple site operations, names such as “home place, dry lot, north pasture, feed lot, or sow farm” could be used.

USDA has established only minimum standards; each State, Territory, or Tribe may have additional information requirements for premises registration. That additional data will be maintained at the State, Territorial, or Tribal level. USDA will not maintain any additional data on participants in the NPIR beyond the required fields of information listed above.

The Need For More Than One PIN

As a veterinarian, you might work with large-scale livestock operations that conduct business as a single entity but have animals in multiple, geographically distinct locations. Your veterinary practice might also involve several different locations that are managed under a single business name. Consequently, livestock owners and veterinarians might need to consider having multiple PINs—one for each of the distinct operation or business locations. To determine if more than one PIN is needed, livestock owners and veterinarians should consult with State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials. State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials will take into account many factors that could indicate a need for multiple PINs. They might consider:

1

Commingling of animals: In a large-scale operation or business that has more than one location where animals of various origins and health status are housed, even if only for short periods of time, State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials may recommend a PIN for each location.

2

Permanence: A unique PIN may be issued for each geographically distinct location within a single operation or business that has permanent livestock facilities, such as pens, corrals, stables, sale rings, or buildings.

3

Area livestock density: In an effort to establish a true epidemiologic picture of an area where livestock are densely populated, State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials may recommend assigning a PIN to each of the business or operation locations that fall inside that geographic area.

4

Animal movement between locations: Large-scale operations or businesses that frequently and routinely move animals from one geographically distinct location to another within the operation may need a PIN for each location—especially if the movements present a risk of disease transmission to other livestock in the area. On the other hand, even if there is no animal movement between geographically distinct locations within an operation, State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials may still recommend a separate PIN for each location.



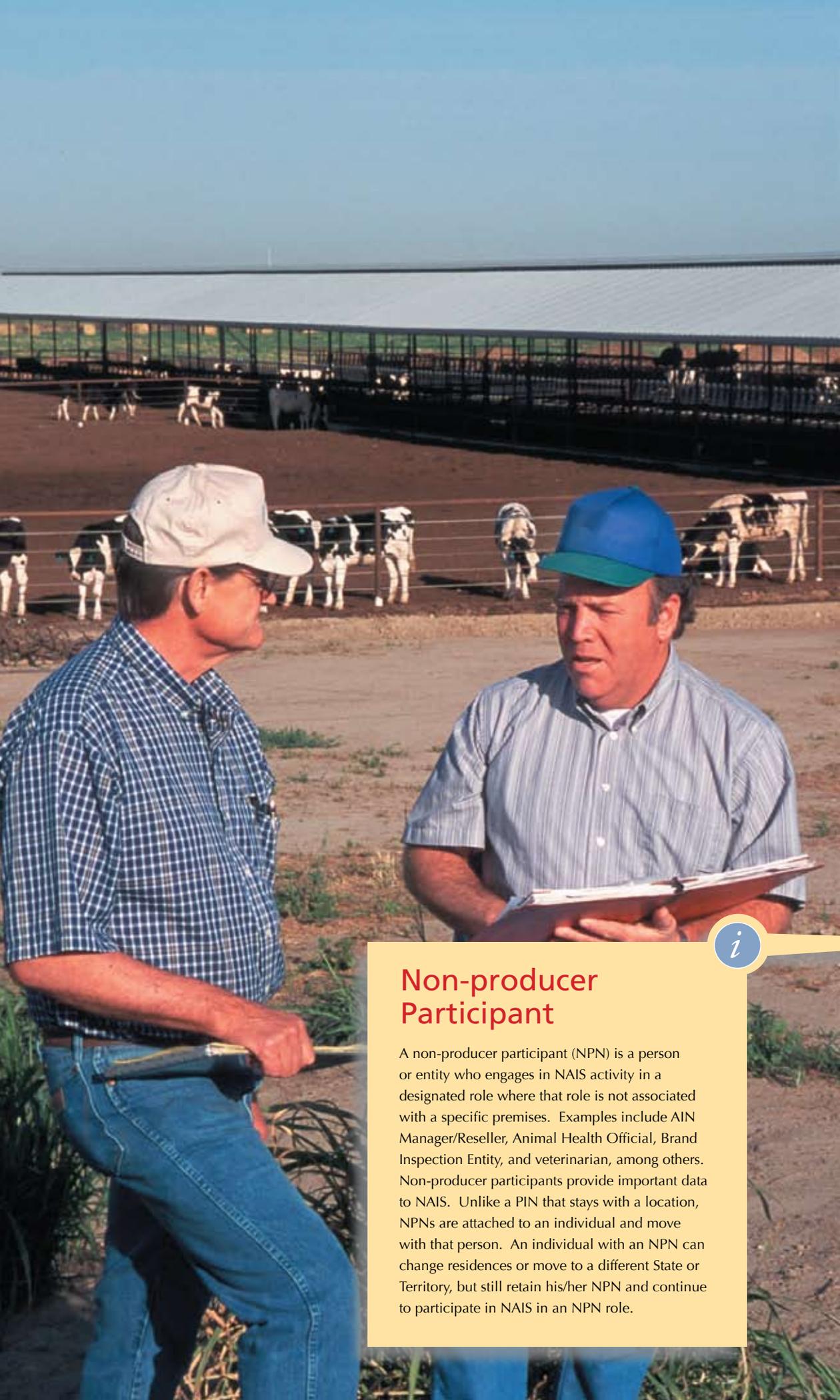
5

Geographic separation: Because the risk of disease exposure from and transmission to other livestock operations increases when animals are moved longer distances, State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials might recommend that operations or businesses that manage multiple, geographically dispersed locations get a PIN for each location.

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Proximity to other livestock operations: When determining if a separate PIN is needed for each geographically distinct location within a single operation or business entity, State, Territory, or Tribal animal health officials will consider each location's proximity to other livestock operations and the potential for contact with other livestock in the area. Locations that have close contact with a neighboring operation or that are situated along a route routinely used for animal movements would likely require separate PINs.

As NAIS continues to develop, more States, Territories, and Tribes may require the PIN on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Many States have already changed their CVI forms to capture this information, and it is now becoming a national standard. PINs may also be used on international health certificates. Even though only some Federal forms currently used in program disease work request PIN information, it is important to be aware that State and Federal forms will change in the future as NAIS standards are adopted for all official animal disease program work. Until that change happens, it is good practice to record a location's PIN (if available) on official forms as additional information.



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Non-producer Participant

A non-producer participant (NPN) is a person or entity who engages in NAIS activity in a designated role where that role is not associated with a specific premises. Examples include AIN Manager/Reseller, Animal Health Official, Brand Inspection Entity, and veterinarian, among others. Non-producer participants provide important data to NAIS. Unlike a PIN that stays with a location, NPNs are attached to an individual and move with that person. An individual with an NPN can change residences or move to a different State or Territory, but still retain his/her NPN and continue to participate in NAIS in an NPN role.