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Recordkeeping

OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

BACKGROUND

Common animal diseases are a fact of life wherever livestock or poultry are raised, held, or boarded. Individual animal producers and owners can't control or eradicate disease threats beyond their property boundaries on their own. But they can do their part to maintain accurate and complete production records.

Recordkeeping can make a difference during an animal disease outbreak. Using current and complete records, animal health officials can move quickly to identify and isolate diseased animals, and limit quarantine and depopulation.

RECORDKEEPING

SETTING THE SCENE:

You are visiting Steve Taylor's beef operation today to pregnancy check his cows. You will have ample opportunity to chat with Steve during this visit, given the nature of the process and size of his herd. During previous visits, Steve has asked you general questions related to his production recordkeeping practices.

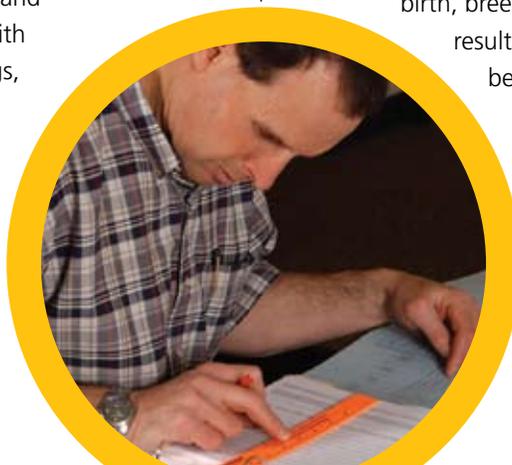
Today, you plan to take that discussion one step further. Steve recently registered his premises with NAIS and identifies his animals with on-farm production tags, but you doubt he has begun to think about nationally unique individual animal identification and movement recording.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

Upon arrival at Steve's farm, you head over to begin setting up for the morning's work. After some brief small talk, you say, "Last time we talked, you said you were considering some changes in your recordkeeping. How's that going?"

"I maintain some basic records like date of birth, breed, sex, and pregnancy check results. But I don't keep much else beyond that," Steve responds.

"That's good," you say. "I'd like you to think about taking one more step."





KEY POINTS:

- Animal health officials trace a disease from animal to animal and from one location to another.
- The more they know about an animal's origin and movement, the faster they can trace, control and eradicate a disease before it reaches your property.
- After registering your premises and receiving a PIN, you can start using 840 AIN devices for unique individual identification.
- Using these devices and recording their animal identification numbers, or AINs, will greatly improve your records.
- By using 840 AIN devices, you will improve an animal health official's ability to quickly trace a disease.
- You should contact an AIN device manager or reseller in your area to purchase 840 AIN devices. For more information, you can visit www.usda/nais/840.

NEXT STEPS:

- Research the process for purchasing 840 AIN devices in your State and be ready to share this information with clients.
 - Go to www.usda.gov/nais/840 and find the list of AIN Device Manufacturers and the current product list of NAIS-approved 840 devices.
 - If you are interested in selling and/or applying USDA 840 devices, refer to the "Steps to Becoming an AIN Device Manager/Reseller" document located at www.usda.gov/nais/840.