

National Animal ID System June 2006

NH Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian

- 1) Background
 - a. Voluntary program
 - b. Intent is rapid trace-back and trace-out for all exposed animals in an animal health event
 - c. Similar programs
 - d. Benefits are economic and otherwise
 - e. Concerns still exist

- 2) Voluntary program
 - a. No required participation, therefore no penalties
 - b. Will not change fair requirements at this time
 - c. Possible mandatory status in the future
 - d. Exceptions for many small and non-commercial producers are built in
 - e. Animals requested to participate: cattle, horses, poultry, goats, sheep, bison, cervids (deer), swine, camelids
 - f. Premises registration is only thing available in NH presently

- 3) Animal health is target
 - a. Program is not intended to *prevent* an outbreak rather allow control and containment measures to begin quickly
 - b. This is not a food safety, nor public health program though some benefits may be derived from the data collected
 - c. Animal health outbreaks have documented costs in the *millions to billions of dollars per event* – affects all taxpayers and consumers, not just animal owners
 - d. Small herds, flocks are as susceptible to disease introduction as large farms

- 4) Similar programs
 - a. Interstate health certificates have been required since the 1920s with mandatory animal and owner identification and movement recording
 - b. Disease eradication and control programs with mandatory identification and tracking (e.g. federal and state scrapie programs, etc.)
 - c. Many groups are adding source, age verification and other value added information to their products capitalizing on consumer interest and demand

- 5) Benefits
 - a. Niche and brand marketing to consumers
 - b. Rapid information dissemination to producers
 - c. Costs of disease events may be mitigated

- 6) Concerns that still exist
 - a. Confidentiality, Freedom of Information Act
 - i. IRS
 - ii. Animal rights activists
 - iii. Proprietary information?
 - b. Cost of id devices, tracking, etc
 - c. Extra labor to report, tag, etc.
 - d. Religious freedom concerns
 - e. Big brother

- 7) More information
 - a. http://nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/animal_id_system.htm