

NAIS Update: (AMHA website 1-17-08)

AMHA staff and board has received inquiries recently regarding the status of NAIS (National Animal Identification System) and it's possible impact on AMHA. Many of these inquires appear to stem from recent internet postings regarding a USDA Business Plan which calls for breed registries to start using an official Animal Identification Number, or "AIN" in their registry.

AMHA has been keeping abreast of NAIS for the past several years through the Equine species working group which was evaluating the program.

All our information states that NAIS is a voluntary program. The NAIS website states "USDA is not requiring participation in the program. NAIS can help producers protect the health and marketability of their animals- but the choice to participate is theirs."

AMHA has not been contacted by any government agency regarding requirements to implement this, nor have we received any indication that there are plans to require this. We recently heard from the American Horse Council and they said "The NAIS Business Plan initiates 840 AIN's in March 2008 and to all equine organizations by January 2009- but it's voluntary." The Equine Species Working Group is also planning a press release to address misconceptions.

AMHA does not have a mechanism to capture and track AIN, and presently has no plans to modify our registry software.

As we learn more, we will certainly pass information along.