



## National DHIA Position Statement on IDairy/FAIR Database Endorsement

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) has been designed by producer organizations and government officials as a tool to improve the ability of state and federal animal health officials to protect the health of our nation's livestock herd. *This also protects dairy producer economic interests.* Primary components of the NAIS are:

- Premise Registration
- Animal Identification
- Tracking of animal movement

USDA has invited industry to work with them to develop, evaluate and put into use databases that will work for industry, while also providing animal health officials the needed animal movement information to facilitate tracing all potentially exposed animals in the case of an animal health emergency.

IDairy, a collaborative effort of six major national dairy organizations, is focused on advancing the NAIS and providing a unified, proactive voice for the dairy industry in the ID arena (<http://www.idairy.org/>). IDairy is working to assure that the dairy industry has the basic infrastructure needed in place to assist animal health officials address emergency and surveillance activities. The efforts to date have the dairy industry better positioned to deal with future animal health issues. These efforts will help the dairy sector provide a leadership position to the regulatory and political reaction to an animal health emergency, by our efforts in Premises and Animal Identification. Dairy's image is enhanced by being proactive on animal health issues and viewed as pro-consumer. By working together we can minimize the cost of the system to dairy producers.

The initial emphasis of IDairy has been premise registration. Individual member organizations are positioned to provide Animal Identification Numbers (AINs). The next steps needed are databases for storing AINs and movement data needed by animal health officials. While the focus of NAIS is animal health, industry can also use of this same infrastructure they are developing as tools to:

- Facilitate marketing to consumers
- Assist in addressing food safety issues
- Maintain and expand our export markets

To take the next step, IDairy leaders have determined that it will be useful to have an industry endorsed database that can be utilized on a voluntary basis by all dairy producers. The National FAIR database, developed by Holstein USA, has been selected to fill the role as an "IDairy database." Reasons for this choice include.

1. The database will be evaluated by USDA and approved for NAIS performance standards
2. The IDairy will have an industry advisory committee
3. It is a dairy industry developed program with a successful track record in meeting the needs of the Michigan TB program
4. Participation is voluntary, so dairy producers' choice is not restricted
5. Reasonable cost for the entry and maintenance of the data

National DHIA has endorsed this action because we believe it is the best current option for dairy producers. We are assured that only NAIS data will be submitted to the database. It will be provided at a minimal cost for producers. In the short term this helps advance the concept of NAIS. It continues to position NDHIA as a positive, proactive industry cooperater and a national leader in ID. As we move forward, NDHIA will continue to monitor the ID arena to insure that NDHIA dairy producer's best interests are represented.

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