

The background of the slide features a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a piece of paper or parchment, with subtle brown and tan marbling. A dark, thin branch with two dried, brownish leaves is positioned diagonally across the frame. One leaf is at the top left, and the other is at the bottom right, connected by a thin stem that runs across the middle of the image.

# Sheep Working Group Update

2006 ASI Meeting



# History of Animal ID

- ID has been used by animal raisers forever
- Paint brands and ear notches
- Dairy and swine industries routinely use ID and data for advancement
- USDA, State Veterinarians and affected producers rely on accurate individual animal ID for disease programs



# History of Animal ID

- Production efficiencies
- Disease control & eradication
- Market demands
- Disease surveillance and monitoring
- Emergency response to FAD
- Food safety



# History of Animal ID

- Decades of discussions and data  
NIAA/USAHA/USDA/Research institutions----  
USAIP-----NAIS
- Members of industry have been at the table
- At times we have been treated as a minor species even though we have experience w/mandatory ID



# Species Working Group

- Formed as a result of 2004 USAHA meeting
- To provide species-specific input into USAIP/NAIS
- Broad industry-wide representation
- Actively considering your grassroots realities and representing YOU!
- Wrestled with many topics, consensus re: build on existing scrapie program, G/L ID, costs

# Sheep Working Group

○ Michael Bishop, WI

○ Bill Brennan, IA

○ Linda Campbell, VA

○ John Cargile & Charlie Christenson, TX

○ Chico Denis, TX

○ Kenny Edgar, TX

○ Paul Frischknecht, UT

○ David Greene, MD

○ Neil Hammerschmidt, MI

○ Eileen Kuhlmann, MN

○ David Morris, CO

○ Lyndon Irwin, MO

○ Cleon Kimberling, CO

○ Rodney Kott, MT

○ Judy Malone, CO

○ Chuck Palmer, CA

○ Jay Parsons, CO



# Sheep Working Group

- Stan Poe, IN
- Stan Potratz, IA
- Paul Rodgers, WV
- Gary Ross, MD
- Joe David Ross, TX
- Rob Rule, IA
- Bill Salina, MT
- Bill Seals, CA
- Marvin Shurley, TX
- Sandy Snider, WY
- Diane Sutton, MD
- Cindy Wolf, MN

Thanks to all!

# Recommendations made in 2004

- Continue with the existing mandatory ID requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program
  - Evolve this program rather than ‘starting over’, key for producer participation.
  - Most complete federal ID system in existence for any species.
  - Recognizes that no purely visual ID system will achieve final tracking goal (48 hours). However no proven RFID tracking system for small ruminants yet exists in the world.



# NAIS Movement Reporting

(recommendations cont.)

- Individual ID and movement reporting mandated when sheep commingle,
  - move in commerce
  - exhibited intra- and interstate
- Group ID lambs in feeding channels
- Group ID sheep moving across state lines for grazing w/o change of ownership



# Recommendations

- The sheep industry recognizes that exhibitions are currently a high-risk activity for disease transmission. Such events should immediately begin enforcing compliance regarding ID and tracking.



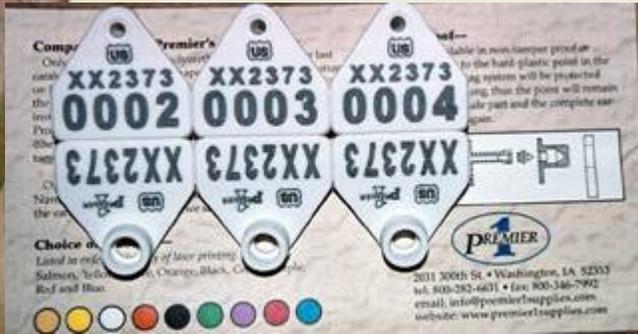
# Tracking

- In reality the best system will depend on both the seller and buyer participating in tracking. The challenge is to not mandate the animal tracking until the system is proven to be both workable and affordable.



## Recommendations to NAIS staff and State Veterinarians by SWG in Fall 2005

- The scrapie program as it is today along with the appropriate group/lot identification will work
- The Scrapie Program's Flock ID number plus the animal ID number, as currently used in the NSEP, is a unique number in the US
- Our industry has more premises and animals identified than others



# Unique Animal ID



# NAIS Tag numbering system

- The 840 numbering system is a 15-digit numbering system providing unique individual animal identification
  - The first 3 numbers represent the country.
  - It was designed solely for electronic reading.
  - Potentially makes visual reading of scrapie tags more error prone
  - SWG opposes this change per NAIS standards from official sheep ID at this time.
  - Continue with the scrapie numbering system - on all tags for sheep and goats inclusive of RFID tags. We ask that the APHIS database be modified to allow this

- 102,658 sheep & goat premises have scrapie flock ID numbers.
- Official eartags sent to 73,046 of these premises.
- Market tagging capability encourages compliance.



# Group/Lot ID

- Producer generated
- 15-character number called GIN
  - NAIS Premises alphanumeric ID (7) +
  - Date (MMDDYY) +
  - Lot assembled that day (01)



Ex. MN3841801270601



# GIN Applications

- Person sending animals assigns the GIN
- Receiving premises reports group entry.
- Desired exception, group of sheep moving interstate, i.e., for grazing w/o change of ownership - report movement but not arrival.\*
- Need to convince USDA of validity of GIN for the sheep industry



# Feeding Channels

- Once a group enters feeding channels, normal practices and records will keep track of the group to the extent practical.
- When animals leave the feeding facility they get a new GIN.
- This approach is scientifically sound for sheep.



# National Animal Records Repository - Data Elements

Animal Identification Number, AIN or Group/Lot  
Identification Number, GIN

Premises Identification Number, PIN, location  
where the event(s) take place

Date of the event

Type of movement (need to follow KISS  
principal)\*

# Private vs. public database

- Need to see demonstrated benefits for the sheep industry to offset estimated private database cost.
- Scrapie database has presented no major issues re. confidentiality or functionality.
- If a private database is to be used,
  - fairer to apply the charge each time a tag is read instead of each time a tag is issued.
    - a tag might be read and data sent to the database only 1 time in an animal's lifetime.
    - Others might read and send data 10 times in an animals' lifetime.





# Cost of Electronic Tracking

- Even if all components of the technology would have proven ready to use the cost is still too high
- ALL costs listed below are ESTIMATES
  - \$2 ± for a tag,/\$4 ± for an implant/ \$3 ± for a bolus
  - \$0.40/tag (±) to use the proposed private database.
  - \$0.30/head (10¢/head/per reading) for labor to read an average official RFID ear tag 3 times (@ the flock of origin, @ the feedlot or auction, @ slaughter) in it's lifetime.
  - \$500 and up for hand readers
  - \$2000 and up for fixed panel readers
  - \$300 on up for data capture

# Challenges

- Producers continually question the need for national ID program relative to the cost of administering and participating.
- Frequent question-Will the NAIS really shorten the time farms, etc. are quarantined if a FAD is diagnosed?
- Sheep specific (sheep are not small cows!)

A photograph of a sheepdog herding sheep in a field. The dog is in the foreground, looking towards the sheep. The sheep are scattered across the field. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains. A large yellow question mark is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Question ?**

**How will NAIS  
integrate with  
scrapie program?**

**Answer:**

Keep it easy !

# Question ?

**Who's going to pay for it!**

Sheep industry estimates an annual cost of about \$20.00 per "cow equivalent"





# Electronic ID/Tracking: Current Issues

- Costs
- Function - not yet reliable & easy to use, operate at speed of commerce
- Demonstration of everyday management benefits
- Unrealistic expectations of producers and technology



- Staying engaged in the advancement of disease control programs assists in user-friendliness and usefulness of the program.
- Sheep-specific progress will be made by staying at the table.
- Some states are moving to mandatory premises registration
- Some states are requesting NAIS PIN registration when ordering scrapie tags

# Awareness of current regs

- Ewelambs required to be tagged if return to breeding flock
- Anticipate more enforcement of tagging of cull ewes and breeding females





- Let members of the SWG know what you are hearing in discussions.
- Monitor activities of other groups.
- The diagnosis of a FAD could change situation overnight, so have a plan that we can live with.





# ASI Policy on Animal ID

January 28, 2006





# Current Policy

- ASI's current ID Policy = 7-11:04
  - Was adopted in 2004
  - Still in effect



# Current Policy

- **BE IT RESOLVED** that ASI endorse the concept of a mandatory national identification program for livestock as outlined by the USAIP Development team, DHS and USDA



# Current Policy

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASI believes that formal rulemaking on the implementation of a national livestock identification system should include the following and begin immediately in order to communicate and clarify USDA and other animal health regulatory agency needs, requirements and timelines:



# Current Policy

- 1. The cost of identification supplies and devices should be provided by the public sector.



# Current Policy

- 2. Implementation of a National ID System for livestock in the sheep sector **should not be duplicative of the National Scrapie Eradication Program ID requirements**, and a seamless transition to another system should be planned and announced well ahead of the time with supplies available through well-organized distribution channels.



## Current Policy

- 3. A National ID System for sheep should accommodate all the various production systems in the United States, including group movement of owned animals for management purposes, as well as movement through feeder and slaughter channels. A readily visible means of identification must be included in a sheep identification system.



# Current Policy

- 4. A National ID System should contribute to the management, marketing and business needs of the U.S. sheep industry.



# Current Policy

- 5. A National ID System for sheep should be thoroughly field tested before implementation to demonstrate the technology is compatible with normal industry operations.



# Proposed Changes



# Proposed Changes

- ASI endorses the 2005 recommendations of the Sheep ID working group.



# Proposed Changes

- 1. The cost of identification, **database services**, supplies and devices should be provided by the public sector.



# Proposed Change

- 3. A National ID System for sheep should accommodate all the various production systems in the United States, including group movement of owned animals for management purposes, as well as movement through feeder and slaughter channels. A readily visible means of identification **or group lot ID** must be included in a sheep identification system.



# Proposed Changes

- 6. Implementation of this system **must** not economically burden any sector of the U.S. sheep industry.



# We seek your input

- Contact any member of the Sheep Working Group or your ASI director.