



The Washington State Animal Identification System

What is the Washington State Animal Identification System (WSAIS)?

- WSAIS is a Web based data system that stores livestock identification information such as Brand records, Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, Bangs tags and test information (i.e. Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, etc).
- WSAIS also houses voluntary producer contact information in case of an animal health emergency.
- WSAIS information is stored and maintained by WSDA.

How does the WSAIS differ from the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?

	WSAIS	NAIS
System Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Information • Animal Identification: Using existing data • Animal Tracing: Using existing data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Premises Registration ★ Animal Identification ★ Animal Tracing
Contact Information vs. Premises Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to notify owners in case of an animal health emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Assists in tracing animal movements from premises of origin to destination
Required Registration Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact name • Address of livestock operation • Phone number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Business name ★ Name and address of premises ★ Contact information ★ Type of operation ★ Species of animals on the premises
Registration Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application emailed or mailed to WSDA • Over the telephone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Online ★ Application emailed or mailed through WSDA ★ Over the telephone
Databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers have the option to register their contact information in Washington's database only or in both Washington state and Federal databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Premises registration information is entered into a Federal database
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information submitted by an individual or a business for the purpose of participating in a state or national identification system is exempt from public disclosure under Washington state law, RCW 42.56.380 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure ★ In Washington state, NAIS information is protected from public disclosure (under RCW 42.56.380)
Voluntary or Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Information: Voluntary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Premises Registration: Voluntary ★ Animal Identification: Voluntary ★ Animal Tracing: Voluntary
System Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact livestock owners within 4 hours once an event has occurred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Acquire animal movement information electronically within 48 hours
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No charge for contact information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ No charge for premises registration

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Why was WSAIS created if NAIS already exists?*

A1: WSAIS was created because Washington producers wanted WSDA to house contact information, animal identification and animal movement information in a state database.

A2: WSAIS and NAIS are instrumental in protecting human health, animal health and the economic vitality of Washington's agricultural industry.

Q: *If I already have my premises registered with NAIS, do I need to register my contact information?*

A: No, however, WSDA recommends that you complete the application to ensure that we have your current information.

Q: *Why does WSDA need my contact information?*

A: Your contact information will assist us in notifying you if an animal health emergency occurs in your area and to provide you with recommended precautions to take to protect your livestock.

Q: *Why don't you use the contact information from certificates you already have?*

A: Many of the certificates we have (Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, Brand Inspections...) have PO Boxes or invalid addresses. We need valid contact information in order to quickly notify you during an animal health emergency.

Q: *How will my information be protected and who has access to it?*

A1: In Washington, information submitted by an individual or a business for the purposes of participating in a state or national animal identification system is **exempt** from public disclosure under RCW 42.56.380.

A2: Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure.

A3: Animal health officials may only obtain your information for animal health purposes.

Q: *What animals are part of WSAIS and NAIS?*

A1: The main focus is on high risk groups, such as cattle and poultry.

A2: You can also register your contact information or premises if you own horses, sheep, goats, pigs, llamas & alpacas, or emus & ostriches.

Q: *Why should I register my contact information or premises?*

A: You should register your premises or contact information because:

- ✓ You will be notified quickly when an animal health emergency is going to effect your livestock.
- ✓ It gives you the information you need, when you need it most.
- ✓ It provides rapid disease identification and containment.
- ✓ It protects market access and gives you a competitive trade advantage.
- ✓ It preserves confidence with trading partners.

Q: *How do I register my contact information or premises?*

A1: Producers have the choice of having their contact information entered into the Washington state database only or both the Washington state and federal databases.

A2: If you are interested in registering your contact information or premises please contact WSDA:

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Animal ID Program

PO Box 42560

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(360) 725-5493

wsais@agr.wa.gov

Applications are available at: www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Animal_Premise