Session 5: Private Sector Perspectives and Experiences: Pigs

US Pork Industry Implementation of Animal Identification: Successes, Challenges and What's Yet to Come

Paul Sundberg, DVM, PhD
Vice President, Science and Technology, National Pork Board
Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.
psundberg@pork.org
U.S. Pork Industry
U.S. Pork Industry

- Est 67,280 commercial premises
- 82% pigs grown on farms >5000 hd.
- 6 million sows in breeding herd
- 110 million pigs marketed
- Annual farm sales $15 billion
- Economic impact $97 billion
The National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

- The NAIS is a state/federal/industry cooperative effort
- Goal:
  - Implement a system that provides animal health authorities with the ability to rapidly identify all premises and at-risk animals that might have been exposed to a disease of concern.
  - 48 hours
  - Standardization
  - Technology neutral
National Animal Identification System

NAIS is comprised of three components:

1. Premises registration
   a) locations that manage livestock or poultry (farms, feedlots, veterinary clinics, and livestock markets)

2. Animal identification
   a) individually or as groups – using an approved method prior to their commingling with animals from other premises

3. Animal tracing
   a) recording animal movements from one premises to another in private and State animal tracking databases using standard data fields and data transfer.
Successes – Phase 1

- USDA Premises Registration Cooperative Agreement
  - Est. 67,280 Swine Premises
  - Phase One: January 2007 to June 2008
    » Regional Premises Identification Coordinators
      - state specific strategies to promote premises registration

- January 2007
  - 33,251 Premises (49 %)

- May 2008
  - 48,623 Premises (72.3%)
Successes – Phase 2

- USDA Premises Registration Cooperative Agreement
  - Est. 67,280 Swine Premises
  - Phase Two: August 2008 to August 2009
  - National Swine Identification Program Manager
    - National Pork Board’s producer services department and other industry partners to promote premises registration

- May 2008
  - 48,623 Premises (72.3%)

- January 2009
  - 53,284 Premises (80%)
Challenges

- Funding
  - Public vs. Private Sectors

- Confidentiality
  - Basic Information:
    » Name of farm, company, or agricultural entity
    » Business contact information for the owner or other appropriate individual
    » Full address for the premises
    » Type of holding

- Engaging all producers
  - Voluntary vs. Mandatory
What’s Yet to Come

- Market influence on premises and animal identification
- Full implementation of individual or group identification
  - Replacing individual sow identification back tag system with official ear tags to improve retention
  - Collection at slaughter
    » Breeding animal individual identification
    » Market animal group source premises identification
- Industry position on NAIS implementation
  - Faster implementation of disease control measures and business continuity planning
  - Enhanced surveillance