



Livestock Identification #2 in a series for producers

Obtaining a Premises Identification Number in California

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To track livestock diseases, animal health officials must know where animals were born, where they have been, and where they came into contact with other animals. Identification of locations that manage or hold animals—referred to as premises—is the starting point of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is responsible for providing National Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) for premises involved in livestock production or commerce in California. The USDA assigns one unique, permanent PIN to each premises (location) involved in animal agriculture. The PIN does not change when a property is sold. Obtaining a premises ID is currently (2005) free of charge and voluntary. As of September 2005, the CDFA had issued over 2,000 PINs, while nationwide the USDA had allocated over 100,000 PINs.

You can obtain a PIN application form by calling the CDFA at the following toll free number: (866) 325-5681, by contacting your local brand inspector, or by downloading it from following site:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/pdfs/animal_identification_CA_premid_form08-05.pdf.

You can then mail or fax (916) 653-2215 the completed form to:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health Branch

CA Premises Registration Program

1220 N Street, Room A-107

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone number: (916) 657-4789 / (866) 325-5681

FAX: (916) 653-2215

Alternatively, you can also enter the information electronically on the CDFA Web site. The following screen shots walk you through this simple process. Type the following URL into the address line of your web browser:

<http://www.californiaid.org>. The following screen will appear.

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Media History M

Address: <http://www.californiaid.org>

Google Search Web Search Site PageRank 942 blocked Options

California Premises & Animal Identification System

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Home >> Create Account User Login

Welcome

Protecting American animal agriculture by safeguarding animal health is vital to the wellbeing of all U. S. citizens. It promotes human health; provides wholesome, reliable, and secure food resources; mitigates national economic threats; and enhances a sustainable environment. Essential to achieving this goal is an efficient and effective animal identification program.

The National Premises Identification Number provides a unique number across the entire United States for locations involved in animal agriculture and links that location to the entity that participates in animal production and/or commerce.

[CREATE ACCOUNT >>](#)

[USER LOGIN >>](#)

Click on the "Create Account" button.

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Step 1. Create an “account” with the CDFA by providing basic information about your business as it applies to livestock and poultry. You need to enter contact information and a mailing address in this screen. Under your account, you may obtain a separate premises identification number for each location where livestock production or commerce occurs. Write down your password so that you can remember it when you log back into your account. When you are done filling in the information click on the “Submit” button.

Home
Create Account >>
User Login

Step #1 : Create Account

Step 1: Please create an account. Creating an account will allow you to request a national Premises ID. Information relating to your business or operating entity should be entered here. You will create a Premises record in the next step.

Step 2: Create Premises
Step 3: Create Operation
Step 4: Create Primary Contact

* - denotes required field

Accountholder Name * :
Mailing Address * :
City * :
State * :
Zip * :
Phone * :
Fax :
Email * :
Password * :
Notes :
Contact Preference: Phone Fax Email

Submit

When you are done click on the “Submit” button to go on to identify the premises to be associated with this account.

- An account holder may request premises identification numbers for several premises
- A valid e-mail address is required for internet registration
- The account holder may be different than the official contact (e.g. herdsman) for the premises

Step 2. A premises is any geographically unique location in which agricultural animals are raised, held, or boarded. Provide the physical address for each distinct premises (location) where you have cattle. You must also provide contact information for each premises (name, phone number, etc.). You do not have to be the owner of the premises to register a premises. Use a new Page 2 for each additional premises. National Premises Identification Numbers (PINs) contain seven alphanumeric characters (e.g. A123R69).

Step #2 : Create Premises

Step 1: Create Account ▼

Step 2: The information that you are submitting will be used to issue a National Premises Identification Number (NPIN). A premises (location) will maintain the assigned NPIN for the life of the premises (when sold intact). The information below must be for the physical address (location) where the animals reside. If animals are located at different places, separate Premises IDs must be requested for each unique location. For additional questions or comments, e-mail at pais.ca.gov. Once you submit the information, you will be contacted via telephone or e-mail within a week of the request.

For your convenience, portions of your information have been carried over from the previous form. If the information for your premises is different from what is listed, simply erase the existing and provide the correct information.

Step 3: Create Operation
Step 4: Create Primary Contact

* - denotes required field

Name of Facility* :

Your Role* : (dropdown menu with options: Property Owner, Leaser of Premises, Premises Owner Legal Representative)

Physical Address* (No P.O. Box) :

City* :

State:

Zip* :

Latitude :

Longitude :

(Latitude & Longitude only necessary if there is no physical address.)

Notes:

When you are done click on the "Submit" button to go on to describe your operation.

- The address must be the physical location where the livestock activity occurs
- In situations where a "911" address doesn't exist or validate, the USDA requires latitude and longitude coordinates to issue a number.

Steps 3 and 4. In these steps, you really have the opportunity to elaborate on the specifics of your particular and unique operation. You can have multiple operations on a given premises, such as a ranch and a packing plant. Where applicable, you can record the different type of animals on the property (cattle, pigs, sheep, etc). The contact person in step #4 is not necessarily the account holder, but rather the person who manages the animals (e.g. herdsman) and could be contacted in case of an animal health situation.

Home

Create Account

User Login



Step #3: Create Operation

Step 1: Create Account ✓
Step 2: Create Premises ✓

Step 3: If multiple species are present at a location, select the primary species present and note in the comments section which other species of animals are present.

Step 4: Create Primary Contact

- You must select the primary operation for the location
- You may add additional operations or species for the location

* - denotes required field

Name of Business:

Operation*:

Operation Type*:

Specify*:

Facility Type:

Notes:

Home

Create Account

User Login



Step #4 : Create Contact

Step 1: Create Account ✓
Step 2: Create Premises ✓
Step 3: Create Operation ✓

Step 4: Please provide a Primary Contact for your premises.

- Person to be contacted in case of an animal health related incident
- It could be a different individual than the account holder

* - denotes required field

Contact First Name*:

Contact Last Name*:

Address*:

City*:

State*:

Zip*:

Phone*:

Fax:

Email*:

Notes:

Contact Preference: Phone Fax Email

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

PIN = premises identification number

Q: What is a premises identification number?

A: A national premises identification number (PIN) is a unique number issued by USDA Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) to premises (properties) involved in animal agriculture.

Q: Is the cattle owner or the landowner responsible for obtaining the premises identification number?

A: It is preferred that the premises landowner or its agent makes the request. However, if the landowner is not able or willing to register the premises, someone else may request a number. In either case, the landowners contact information should be provided. If you have any concerns contact a CDFA premises identification personnel (ph: 866-325-5681) to seek assistance.

Q: If I own land but no cattle do I need to get a premises identification number?

A: A PIN is only needed if the premises is participating in animal agriculture. However, if someone else is leasing or using any part of the property to raise or house livestock, a premises number will be needed.

Q: If I own cattle but no land do I need to get a premises identification number?

A: All individuals who own or lease livestock are responsible for having a PIN for the holding location(s) of their livestock.

Q: How is a premises defined, such as when a farm or ranch has a primary farm or home place and several other distinct locations in which livestock are reared?

A: Sometimes, a livestock production enterprise contains multiple locations. Some of the locations are permanent facilities whereas other sites are used only on a temporary basis such as public lands for grazing purposes. At a minimum, the “home ranch” needs to be registered for the operator to obtain a unique PIN. Additional locations are not required to be registered at this time. It is possible to include more than one location as separate operations under one PIN. For example you may have a home ranch and another piece of property where you run the herd during the summer. You can list them both as operations under the same PIN, even though they are spatially separated. The advantage of this is that there are fewer PINs to manage; however, the disadvantage is that if a quarantine is needed, it will likely involve all locations included under one PIN. However, registering multiple PIN may not eliminate the need to quarantine all locations as movement of personnel or equipment can spread disease.

Q: If each location has a different PIN, what happens if the owner moves cows from one location to another, such as for breeding purposes?

A: Although the locations can have separate premises IDs (PINs), it may not be necessary for producers to report animal movements that occur for typical management purposes within the overall operation. If a producer maintains truly separate cattle operations, however, it may be of merit to have the animals link to separate, specific PINs—for example, if a producer owns both a purebred herd and a commercial herd that are managed at different locations and that are not commingled. Having a record of each premises will help animal health officials determine the magnitude of an investigation that is needed if a disease were identified in one of the animals at that premises.

Q: Can I add more premises at a later date?

A: Yes. This can be done via the web by logging into your account or by contacting CDFA’s premises identification personnel (ph: 866-325-5681) to seek assistance.

Q: If I sell a property, what happens to the premises identification number?

A: Once a premises is entered into the databank the PIN remains with that physical location, even following a change of ownership. A premises (property) will be retired only if its land use changes from animal agriculture to another use such as retail development, etc.

Q: What about permits on Federal or public utility land – am I responsible for getting a premises ID?

A: The producer should request a premises number and provide the information associated with the location such as permit number, agency issuing the permit, and any relevant information about the use of federal or public utility land.

Q: How do I get a premises ID for land I graze in another state?

A: This scenario is considered an interstate movement of cattle and will require a separate premises ID. Each state is responsible for managing premises within their state. You will need to contact the other state department of agriculture.

Q: How do I get a premises ID if my grazing pastures extend into another state?

A: Each state is responsible for managing premises within their state. You will need to contact the other state department of agriculture. The owner/manager may wish to begin with the State veterinarian that is responsible for certifying the herd's disease status or with the State in which the cattle management facilities are located. If a property crosses State lines, but is managed by the same operator as part of an operation where cattle routinely commingle, it may be sufficient to obtain a single PIN. In these cases, the property owner/manager should contact the appropriate authority in each State where the property lies and explain the situation to determine how best to proceed with premises identification.

Q: What happens if I choose not to get a premises ID?

A: Currently the program is voluntary and there are no penalties in effect. Some other states already have instituted mandatory premises registration and USDA has proposed January 2008 for mandatory national premises registration. Several industry segments, including auction markets, processors, and feedyards are asking their suppliers to obtain a premises number to help establish source verification. When mandatory, a premises number will be needed to move livestock into commerce, and to order official identification devices (tags).

Q: Is there a need for latitude and longitude coordinates?

A: In situations where a valid "911" physical address doesn't exist, the USDA requires latitude and longitude coordinates to issue a premises ID. Coordinates can be obtained from all County Assessor's offices. Additionally, brand inspectors can assist you with determining your coordinates. The allocation of a premises ID for locations that do not have a recognized physical address will usually be delayed by a few days.

Q: Can I merge two premises together?

A: If two adjacent premises are merged and a new physical address is generated, the two old premises addresses will be retired and a new premises number will be issued for the merged address. If a farm is divided, the premises number stays with the piece of the property that retains the physical location address and a new premises number would be issued for the new location. In either case you will need to contact CDFA's premises identification personnel.

Information Resources

- California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Identification Website
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais>
<http://californiaid.org>
- USDA Questions and Answers about Cattle and the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)
http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/audiences/cattle_and_bison/cattle_qa_factsheet.shtml
- USDA National Animal Identification System: Premises Registration factsheet
<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/downloads/print/Factsheet-Premises%20ID.pdf>

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