

A Comparison: the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and Colorado's Brand Inspection Program



Animal Identification	Brand Identification
Goal of the Program	
The goal of the proposed NAIS is to protect animal agriculture from devastating animal diseases.	The purpose of Colorado's brand inspection program is to help protect cattle owners from loss of animals due to theft, straying, or misappropriation.
How is this done?	
Identifying all premises and animals that have direct contact with a foreign or domestic disease concern within 48 hours after discovery through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Premises Identification ▶ Animal Identification ▶ Animal Tracking 	Monitoring change of ownership of cattle through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Registration of permanent brands for bovine and equine animals ▶ Inspection of brands and animals prior to change of ownership, animal movement of more than 75 miles or out of state, and at slaughter
Where?	
 <p style="text-align: center;">All States</p>	Only 17 states have brand inspection laws. These states are located west of the Mississippi and are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming
Which animals are included?	
The following species are included in the NAIS: alpaca and llama, aquaculture (fish and shellfish), beef and dairy cattle, bison, deer and elk, goats, horses, poultry, sheep, and swine.	Colorado requires inspection of brands on all cattle, equine (horses, burros, donkeys, mules), and domestic alternative livestock (elk and fallow deer). Movement is monitored for ownership.
How are the programs funded?	
The federal government allocated limited funding for initial implementation of projects and development of a premises identification system. Eventually both private and public funding will be necessary to make the NAIS fully operational. Federal and state governments and industry, will share the cost of maintenance, probably with each of these entities covering certain aspects of the system.	Brand inspection is financed through brand registration and inspection fees paid by cattle owners. 
Laws	
The NAIS is currently voluntary, but it is expected to become mandatory. Some states have mandatory animal ID and certain animal movements are tracked, particularly those involving disease quarantines.	Colorado Revised Statutes requires a brand inspection prior to change of ownership, animal movement of more than 75 miles or out of state, and at slaughter.
Who is responsible?	
Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) State: Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industries	Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Brand Inspection