

PRINCE WILLIAM AT BAY

National Animal Identification Program

By: Paige Thacker

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is a national program intended to identify animals and track them as they come into contact with, or commingle with, animals other than herd mates from their premises of origin.

The system is being developed for all animals that will benefit from rapid trace backs in the event of a disease concern. Currently, working groups comprised of industry and government representatives are developing plans for cattle, swine, sheep, goats, horses, poultry, bison, deer, elk, llamas, and alpacas.

Already, many of these species can be identified through some sort of identification system, but these systems are not consistent across the country. Tracing an animal's movements can therefore be a time consuming endeavor during a disease investigation, especially if the animal has moved across State lines.

In April 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the framework for implementing the NAIS animal identification and tracking system that will be used in all States and that will operate under national standards. When fully operational, the system will be capable of tracing a sick animal or group of animals back to the herd or premises that is the most likely source of infection. It will also be able to trace potentially exposed animals that were moved out from that herd or premises. The sooner animal health officials can identify infected and exposed animals and premises, the sooner they can contain the disease and stop its spread.

The NAIS will enhance U.S. efforts to respond to intentionally or unintentionally introduced animal disease outbreaks more quickly and effectively. USDA's long term goal is to establish a system that can identify all premises and animals that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery.

The first step in implementing the NAIS is identifying and registering premises that house animals. Such premises would include locations where livestock and poultry are managed, marketed, or exhibited. Knowing where animals are located is the key to efficient, accurate, and cost-effective epidemiologic investigations and disease-control efforts.

It is now possible to register your premises through the VDACS, the NAIS website or with the help of the local Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent. As premises are registered, another component of the NAIS animal identification will be integrated into the system. Unique animal identification numbers (AINs) will be issued to individually identified premises. In the case of animals that move in groups through the production chain such as swine and poultry. The group will be identified through a group/lot identification number (Group/Lot IDs). USDA is developing the standards for collecting and reporting information, but industry will determine which type of identification method works best for each species. These methods could include radio frequency identification tags, retinal scans, DNA, or others. As long as the necessary data are sent to USDA information repositories in a standardized form, it will be accepted.

USDA will build upon existing identification systems and allow for a transition period from systems currently defined in the Code of Federal Regulations before requiring AINs or Group/Lot IDs. Working with States and industry, USDA will also evaluate various animal identification technologies to determine how the collection of animal movement records can best be automated. And we will encourage as much participation as possible.

As premises are registered and animals or groups of animals are identified based on the standard protocols, USDA will begin collecting information about animal movements from one premises to another. With an efficient, effective animal tracking system in place, USDA will be able to perform rapid trace backs in case of an animal disease outbreak. As envisioned, only Federal, State, and Tribal animal health authorities would have direct access to the national premises and animal identification information repositories. They need this information to accomplish their job of safeguarding animal health.

USDA is investigating various options to protect the confidentiality of the information. It is important to note that the national repositories will include information only for animal and disease tracking purposes. Proprietary production data will remain in private databases.

If USDA decides to make all or parts of the NAIS mandatory, APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) will follow the normal rulemaking process. The public will have the opportunity to comment upon any proposed regulations.

In Virginia, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will be administering the program with the State Veterinarian. Virginia Cooperative Extension has been asked to provide support delivering educational information about the different phases of the program to animal producers. Keep an eye out for programs in this region. If you have more questions about the NAIS program you can contact your local county Agriculture Extension Agent or go to the following websites for information.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/animalid.html>

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>

PRINCE WILLIAM AT BAY

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Prince William
Soil and Water
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The Commonwealth of Virginia
Supports the Prince William Soil and
Water Conservation District through
financial and administrative assistance
provided by the Department of
Conservation and Recreation.

2005 Pesticide Disposal Program

- ◇ The disposal of canceled, banned or unwanted agricultural and commercial pesticides poses a significant challenge to agricultural producers and other pesticide users due to its high cost. The proper disposal of waste pesticides eliminates a potential threat to health and the environment.
- ◇ In 2005 Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Pesticide Services' has designated our area for Pesticide Disposal Program. The program has changed since the last time we conducted it in your areas.
- ◇ In the past our disposal contractor visited each participant's pesticide storage location, packaged the unwanted pesticides and transported the pesticides off site. The current program will require participants to transport their unwanted agricultural and commercial pesticides to a central collection site where the hazardous waste disposal contractor will package the pesticides for eventual disposal. This is similar to the collection methodology used in household hazardous waste collection programs. Homeowners-type pesticides are **not** accepted in this program. If it is determined that the pesticide holder cannot safely package the pesticides for transport (spilled pesticides), the disposal contractor will visit their location to package the pesticides and transport off site.
- ◇ As in the past, we want participants to pre-register for the program and include a list of pesticides with container sizes for disposal. This is necessary to assist the contractor with supply requirements. If you have unwanted pesticides, contact your local Cooperative Extension agent.
- ◇ For Prince William County, the City of Manassas Park, or the City of Manassas contact Paige Thacker, Horticulture Agent, at 703-792-4671.

Horseowners!

Check our web site at www.pwsacd.org
for information on pasture management



Introducing our New Employee

Beata Remik

Hello all! I am back. For those who do not know who I am, I will introduce myself.

My name is Beata Remik. I joined to the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District in March as a Conservation Specialist. My educational background covers a M. S. degree from Hungary in the area of Agribusiness and Economy specializing in Foreign Trade & Marketing. Living in Virginia horse country, I was interested in knowing more

about the local agriculture and environment. That interest led me in 2002 to volunteer for the Soil & Water Conservation District and work as a Conservation Specialist Aide. During this time I recognized the challenges and the beauty in this area and I became deeply inspired to join the group.

As a person I am a horse enthusiast, rider and carriage driver in my free time. I am also big fan of dogs and cats. Crafting, designing and horse archery are some of my other hobbies.

It is always a pleasure to work with you protecting our water sources. If you have a problem with your pasture or just concern about your natural resources please call us. I will be pleased to work with you.



HORSE MANURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

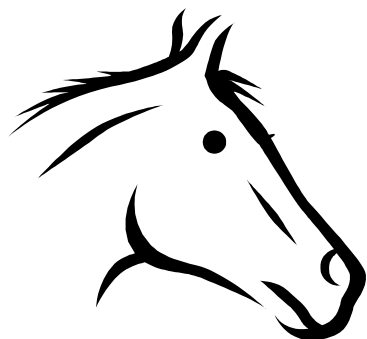
Friday, May 13th at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and
Extension Center (MARE) - 5527 Sullivans Mill Road, Middleburg,
VA 20117

9 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Featuring Guest Speaker Alayne Bickle of "Horses for Clean Water"
and Equus Magazine

Topics:

- Environmental Concerns and Solutions
- How to Compost Raw Stall Waste
- Pasture Application vs. Off-Farm Disposal
- Opportunities to Produce and Market Compost
- Local Regulations Affecting Manure Management



For More Information -
Prince William Soil & Water
Conservation District
13061 Fitzwater Drive
Nokesville, VA 20181
Phone: 703-594-3621
Fax: 703-594-2998

Pre-Registration Required by May 9th

- \$20 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, and handouts
- Registration form available at www.pswcd.org under "Horse Owners"
- Registration forms also available from Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (703) 594-3621 or katenorris@pswcd.org
- Completed forms and checks made payable to PWSWCD should be mailed to PWSWCD, Attn: Horse Seminar, 13061 Fitzwater Drive, Nokesville, VA 20181

*This project was supported with funding from the Environmental
Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program through the
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.*

Upcoming Events

April 23 Virginia Cooperative Extension's
Spring Fling Lawn and Landscape
Show at the PW Fairgrounds

April 23 Earth day Celebration at the Prince
William Fairgrounds

May 6 VA Soil and Water Conservation
Districts Area II Spring Meeting

May 13 Horse Manure management Work-
shop at the Middleburg Agricultural
Research And Extension Center
(MARE)

VA Cooperative Extension-Spring Classes

May 3 Vegetable Gardening

May 16 & 31 Champion & Historic Tree
Registry

June 7 Butterflies in the Garden

June 18 Pruning

For more information about any of these
VCE classes call 703-792-7747

Also visit our website:

www.pswcd.org

For more information on any of the
above events please call (703) 594-3621.



**PRINCE
WILLIAM**

**SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*The mission of the Prince
William Soil and Water
Conservation District is to
provide leadership in the
conservation of soil, water
and related resources
to all Prince William
County citizens, through
technical assistance,
information, and
education.*

*The public is welcome at
District meetings, which are
held monthly on the 2nd
Thursday of the month at 12:30
p.m. in the Prince William Soil
and Water Conservation District
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a meeting has not been
cancelled or postponed.*

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PRINCE WILLIAM
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Nokesville, VA 20181