National Animal ID System  June 2006
NH Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian

1) Background
   a. Voluntary program
   b. Intent is rapid trace-back and trace-out for all exposed animals in an animal health event
   c. Similar programs
   d. Benefits are economic and otherwise
   e. Concerns still exist

2) Voluntary program
   a. No required participation, therefore no penalties
   b. Will not change fair requirements at this time
   c. Possible mandatory status in the future
   d. Exceptions for many small and non-commercial producers are built in
   e. Animals requested to participate: cattle, horses, poultry, goats, sheep, bison, cervids (deer), swine, camelids
   f. Premises registration is only thing available in NH presently

3) Animal health is target
   a. Program is not intended to prevent an outbreak rather allow control and containment measures to begin quickly
   b. This is not a food safety, nor public health program though some benefits may be derived from the data collected
   c. Animal health outbreaks have documented costs in the millions to billions of dollars per event – affects all taxpayers and consumers, not just animal owners
   d. Small herds, flocks are as susceptible to disease introduction as large farms

4) Similar programs
   a. Interstate health certificates have been required since the 1920s with mandatory animal and owner identification and movement recording
   b. Disease eradication and control programs with mandatory identification and tracking (e.g. federal and state scrapie programs, etc.)
   c. Many groups are adding source, age verification and other value added information to their products capitalizing on consumer interest and demand

5) Benefits
   a. Niche and brand marketing to consumers
   b. Rapid information dissemination to producers
   c. Costs of disease events may be mitigated

6) Concerns that still exist
   a. Confidentiality, Freedom of Information Act
      i. IRS
      ii. Animal rights activists
      iii. Proprietary information?
   b. Cost of id devices, tracking, etc
   c. Extra labor to report, tag, etc.
   d. Religious freedom concerns
   e. Big brother

7) More information