



DAIRY PREMISES IDENTIFICATION – WHAT IS NEEDED AND HOW IS IT USED?

A National Premises Identification Number (PIN), a location identifier (LID), a permit number, a bulk tank unit number, or a herd number – each number serves a different and important purpose in the dairy industry. Learn more about why PINs are needed by States and USDA during a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak and how it is used.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why should dairy producers get a National Premises Identification Number (PIN)?

A: A premises identification number (PIN) is a nationally unique code used for traceability purposes during a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Controlling the spread of diseases requires knowing where at risk animals are located and contacting their owners and caretakers.- Producers who request a PIN provide their name, phone number, and the type (not number) of livestock at a specific geospatial location (latitude and longitude). This might be the dairy farm site, a heifer grower, calf-ranch, or dry cow pasture. The PIN allows animal health officials to quickly and precisely identify if there are livestock in areas around infected livestock. The contact information allows the state to quickly notify producers on steps to protect their livestock in an FAD outbreak.

Q: My cattle have Animal Identification Number (AIN) “840” tags – do I already have a PIN?

A: You might. To order 840 tags, you need to have either a PIN or a Location Identifier (LID) issued by the state. PINs and LIDs are not the same. Producers need a PIN to request a movement permit for livestock and their products in an FAD outbreak. See Table 1 for more information.

Q: Why do I need a PIN if I already have a LID, bulk tank unit number, herd number, or a permit number?

A: PINs are unique numbers assigned on a national basis to a physical location with livestock. The other numbers are assigned by a State and may not be nationally unique. An FAD outbreak is a national issue managed by USDA working alongside State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs). The officials use the PIN and information associated with it to manage infected livestock, communicate with other State officials, and issue movement permits. For instance, if your herd is part of a regulatory Control Area and you have cattle, semen, embryos, or milk that need to move to another location, a PIN for both the origin and destination locations is required to request a movement permit. See Table 1 for more information and visit the Secure Milk Supply Plan website (www.securemilk.org) for movement permit guidance.

Q: How do I get a PIN?

A: PINs can be requested, free of charge, from the office of the SAHO where the animals are located: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/traceability/state-pin>. If you have multiple or adjoining locations with animals, contact your SAHO or the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Office in your state for guidance on which locations may need a PIN.

Q: I got a PIN years ago. Do I need to do anything to update it?

A: It is a good idea to check that the information associated with your PIN is still accurate. If a disease strikes in your area that could infect your livestock, up-to-date contact information and the actual types of livestock at the location will speed up the communication process and the response. The National Pork Board provides an online premises verification resource for all species at: <https://lms.pork.org/Premises>. Submit corrections to the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Office in your state.

TABLE 1: TYPES OF PREMISES IDENTIFICATION AND PURPOSE

Type of ID	Purpose	Additional Info.
National Premises Identification Number (PIN)	Unique alphanumeric national code that is permanently assigned to a single physical location. The PIN identifies the actual location of animals and can be used for tracing in the event of an animal health or food safety emergency. Required for movement permits for livestock, germplasm, possibly milk, in/out or within an FAD Control Area.	Can be used to order 840 Official ID. PINs are recommended for all locations that raise, feed, or house livestock as well as locations that ship to or receive products from livestock operations. Examples include the dairy farm site, heifer growers, calf-ranches, dry cow pastures, pre-fresh facilities, auction markets, beef feedlots, veal operations, embryo transfer facilities, feed mills, and dairy processing plants receiving raw milk.
Location Identifier (LID)	Unique numeric state code that is permanently assigned to a single physical location. The LID identifies the actual location of animals and can be used for tracing in the event of animal health or food safety emergency. USDA APHIS cannot use a LID to issue movement permits in/out or within an FAD Control Area.	Can be used to order 840 Official ID. Not all states issue a LID.
Bulk Tank Unit (BTU) or Herd Number	Bulk tank unit (BTU) numbers pertain to the milk product, wherever it moves. BTUs are assigned by the state to milk plants, a group of farms, or an individual farm that markets milk. A herd number pertains to a group of animals, wherever they move. A herd number is assigned by the state to a group of cattle managed as a unit on one or more premises under the same ownership without being assigned to a permanent location. Neither can be used by USDA APHIS to issue movement permits in/out or within an FAD Control Area.	These are not unique identifiers and do not allow traceability during an FMD outbreak.
Permit Number	Permit numbers are assigned by state regulatory agencies to an individual farm to track milk samples and inspections as part of routine regulatory program activities. USDA APHIS cannot use a state-issued permit number to issue outbreak movement permits in/out or within an FAD Control Area.	Permits issued to farms for routine regulatory activities, such as inspections, are different than movement permits issued during an FAD outbreak.

ABBREVIATIONS

APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

BTU – Bulk tank unit

FAD – Foreign animal disease

LID – Location Identifier

PIN – National Premises Identification Number

SAHO – State Animal Health Official

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

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