

**Subject:** Farmers Weigh in on Impact of Animal Tracking

**Story Summary:** A national animal identification system is a hot topic these days. USDA is working on implementation of a new system and there are several bills in Congress addressing the subject. While most producers support such a program, many worry that a rush to implementation could lead to a lot of problems for agriculture.

**TRT:** 2:00

**Suggested Lead:** All of animal agriculture will feel the impact of a national animal identification program. The question for many farmers is “how painful will that impact be?” Johnna Miller reports.

**Suggested Supers:** Saratoga County, NY  
@ :03

Dave Wood  
New York Dairy Farmer  
@ :10

Tom Borden  
New York Dairy Farmer  
@ 1:08

Johnna Miller  
Reporting  
@ 1:52

**Suggested Tag:** The Agriculture Department plans to start issuing identification numbers by late fall.

**Farmers Weigh in on Impact of Animal Tracking**  
**Johnna Miller Reporting**

<p>Wood helping to tag a calf</p> <p><b>Saratoga County, NY</b></p>	<p>VO/  NEW YORK DAIRY FARMER DAVE WOOD ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S PLANS TO START A NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.</p>
<p><b>Dave Wood</b>  <b>Dairy Farmer</b></p>	<p>SOT/  WOOD: THIS BUTTON WE PUT IN EARLY IN THE BABY CALF SO THAT WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE SURE WE KNOW WHO SHE IS.</p>
<p>Wood pointing out ear tag</p> <p>closeup of ear tag</p> <p>Wood on computer</p>	<p>VO/  HE'S BEEN USING A NATIONAL I.D. SYSTEM FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS, PUTTING NUMBERED TAGS IN HIS COWS' EARS AND THEN REGISTERING THEM BY COMPUTER.</p>
<p>calf</p> <p>Wood on camera</p>	<p>SOT/  OF COURSE IT HELPS WITH DISEASE CONTROL AND BEING ABLE TO TRACK ANIMALS AND FIND OUT WHERE THEY'VE BEEN AND WHERE THE SOURCE OF THE ANIMALS ARE, BUT IT HELPS US, WE CAN TRACK ALL THE ANCESTRY FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS.</p>
<p>wide shots of cows eating</p> <p>close up of hogs</p> <p>chickens eating</p> <p>wide of chicken house</p>	<p>VO/  ANIMAL I.D. HAS BEEN A HOT TOPIC EVER SINCE A COW IN WASHINGTON STATE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY – BETTER KNOWN AS MAD COW DISEASE. THE USDA PLAN WOULD TRACK CATTLE, HOGS AND POULTRY. IT AIMS AT BEING ABLE TO TRACE THE ORIGIN AND MOVEMENT OF AN ANIMAL WITHIN 48 HOURS. THAT WOULD ALLOW ANIMAL HEALTH EXPERTS TO FIND THE SOURCE OF A DISEASE OUTBREAK QUICKLY AND STIFLE THE SPREAD OF THAT DISEASE.</p>
<p>shot of Borden</p>	<p>VO/  BUT FARMERS LIKE TOM BORDEN, WHO DON'T USE A REGISTERED TRACKING SYSTEM, HAVE CONCERNS.</p>
<p><b>Tom Borden</b>  <b>Dairy Farmer</b></p>	<p>SOT  I REALIZE THE NEED FOR SOMETHING TO BE DONE. I'M JUST CONCERNED ABOUT</p>

	THE BURDEN IT'S PUTTING ONTO ME.
<p>more of Borden and his cows</p> <p>More cows</p> <p>ear tags</p> <p>wide shot of cows</p>	<p>VO/  MANY FARMERS FEAR THEY WILL BE ASKED TO PAY FOR THIS PROGRAM THAT HAS AN ESTIMATED PRICE TAG OF \$122 MILLION. THEY ALSO WORRY ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY AND LIABILITY ISSUES. BUT THERE ARE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES TO SUCH A PROGRAM. IT WOULD IMPROVE THE ABILITY TO CONTAIN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAKS, BOOST CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN OUR FOOD SYSTEM AND REASSURE OUR TRADING PARTNERS.</p>
<p>Wood on camera</p>	<p>SOT/  WELL, I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE NEED TO TRACE OUR ANIMALS. WE NEED TO KEEP TRACK OF DISEASES AND IF WE CAN TRACE OUR ANIMALS IT'S GOING TO MAKE IT A WHOLE LOT EASIER.</p>
<p>close up of cow</p> <p>wide shot of cows eating</p> <p>Borden walking by line of cows</p>	<p>VO/  ANIMAL INDUSTRY GROUPS HAVE WORKED ON THE ISSUE FOR YEARS, AND MOST AGREE. AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RUSH AHEAD WITHOUT WORKING OUT THE KINKS OF THIS NEW PROGRAM, A NATIONAL ANIMAL TRACKING SYSTEM WILL BE HEADED DOWN THE RIGHT TRACK.</p> <p>IN SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>