

Premises Identification – What is needed and how is it used?



A national premises identification number (PIN), a state location identifier (LID), or a permit number each serve a different and important purpose in the beef cattle industry. Learn why PINs are needed by States, Territories, and the USDA during natural disasters and animal health events. Also, learn how the PIN will be used in a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak.

Q: WHAT IS A PREMISES?

A: A premises is a physical location where livestock are raised, fed, or held. Also, premises may ship to or receive products from livestock operations. Examples include farms, ranches, privately owned and leased pastures, feedlots, livestock markets, buying stations, livestock exhibitions, fairgrounds, rodeo arenas, veterinary clinics, bull studs, embryo collection facilities, packing plants and feed mills.

Q: WHAT IS A PREMISES IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)?

A: A PIN is a nationally unique alphanumeric code assigned by USDA to a physical location. The PIN is connected to either a 911 address or latitude and longitude coordinates (geospatial location).

Q: WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO GET A PIN?

A: The information varies by state. Producers request a PIN from their State Veterinarian. They get the PIN from the USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. At a minimum producers provide their name, phone number, and the species of livestock at a specific geospatial location. This information may be protected under the state code. Any information in the USDA database is protected.

Q: HOW DO I GET A PIN?

A: Request a free PIN from the office of the State Veterinarian where the animals are located. Visit: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/traceability/pin Your State Veterinarian can guide you on which locations may need a PIN if you have multiple places with animals.

Q: WHY SHOULD BEEF CATTLE PRODUCERS GET A NATIONAL PREMISES IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)?

A: The PIN and related info allows animal health officials to locate livestock quickly and precisely in high-risk areas. This may be due to a disaster (e.g., wildfires, blizzards, floods) or a contagious animal disease, like foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The contact info allows State officials to notify producers of steps to protect their livestock. A PIN will be required to move cattle, semen, or embryos in an FMD outbreak as part of traceability. See Table 1 for more information. Visit the Secure Beef Supply Plan website (www.securebeef.org) for more info about moving animals in an FMD 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 where your animals are located. PINs and LIDs are not the same. PINs are used nationally, and LIDs are used only within a state. See Table 1 for more information.

Q: WHY DO I NEED A PIN IF I ALREADY HAVE A LID OR PERMIT NUMBER?

A: PINs are unique codes assigned by USDA APHIS Veterinary Services to a physical location associated with livestock. LIDs are unique codes assigned by individual states. A PIN would be required for any national response to a foreign animal disease outbreak like FMD.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TYPE OF PREMISES IDENTIFICATION I HAVE?

A: Contact the office of your State Veterinarian, call 1-866-USDA-TAG, or contact the USDAAPHIS Veterinary Services Office in your state.

Q: I GOT A PIN YEARS AGO. DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO UPDATE IT?

A: No. However, the contact information or types of livestock associated with it might. Up-to-date information will speed up communication and response if a disaster or disease strikes in your area. Contact your State Veterinarian to ensure your information is correct.

Q: DO I NEED TO GET A PIN FOR EVERY PUBLIC LAND PASTURE OR ALLOTMENT GRAZED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR?

A: No. If your herd is within an FMD Control Area and put under quarantine, officials will assign a PIN to the latitude/longitude points (geospatial location) where animals enter/exit the pasture or allotment. Ranchers that house livestock on their privately owned land (base property) are encouraged to get PINs.

TABLE 1: TYPES OF PREMISES IDENTIFICATION AND PURPOSE

TYPE OF ID	PURPOSE	ADDITIONAL INFO
National Premises Identification Number (PIN)	Unique alphanumeric national code that assigned by USDA to a single physical location. The PIN is permanently connected to either a 911 address or latitude and longitude coordinates (geospatial location). USDA, States, and Territories can use a PIN for tracing in the event of an animal health or food safety emergency. Required for movement permits for livestock, germplasm in/out or within an FMD Control Area.	Can be used to order 840 Official ID. Also used for regulatory disease testing such as bovine brucellosis or tuberculosis. 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 farms, ranches, pastures, feedlots, livestock markets, livestock exhibitions, veterinary clinics, embryo transfer facilities, and packing plants, even feed mills.
Location Identifier (LID)	Unique numeric state code that is permanently assigned to a single physical location. The LID identifies the actual location of animals. The state can use LIDs 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 FMD Control Area.	Can be used to order 840 Official ID. Not all states issue a LID.

ABBREVIATIONS

- **APHIS** – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- **FMD** – Foot-and-mouth disease
- **LID** – Location Identifier
- **PIN** – National Premises Identification Number
- **USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Secure Beef Supply website has additional resources available at: www.securebeef.org