

What is Premise ID?

Premise identification is part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) being developed to identify animals and track them as they move from one location to another. The purpose of the program is to create a database that will allow a rapid traceback in the event of a disease concern. Youth may already have a premise ID number for the farm where their 4-H hogs are being cared for.

Who is Requiring Premise ID?

Currently, Premise ID numbers are required for swine by Tyson Fresh Meats and Hormel Foods. Other packers may soon follow in the coming years. This is mainly due to increasing requirements and precautions on food safety from not only U.S. entities but also those overseas including the Japanese market. **Premise ID numbers are currently NOT required for Iowa State Fair 4-H exhibitors, but depending on the packer for county fairs, it may be at the county level.** Keep in mind, Premise ID number requirements may increase in the future for all swine exhibitors and possibly other species. Stay tuned for more information.

How do Youth Obtain a Premise ID Number?

The Premise ID must be for the farm where the hogs are being cared for—if that is not where the 4-H'er lives, they will need the owner of the property where the hogs are being cared for to submit the form and the 4-H'er would use that number. The form may be accessed and submitted on the web at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/pdf/premiseIDapp.pdf>. **It is important that youth obtain a Premise ID Number immediately to be eligible to exhibit and sell hogs at County Fairs where Tyson Fresh Meats or Hormel Foods is the buyer. It may take several weeks to receive the number, so it is important to complete the application right away.**

Questions/Premise ID application status: IDALS, 1-888-778-7675.

4-H Market Swine Animal Care and Disclosure Forms (Drug affidavit)

Counties which may have received letters from Tyson Fresh Meats may also have received a swine disclosure form similar to the one currently used for 4-H market swine exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair. The State Fair 4-H Animal Care and Disclosure Form, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/Documents/LHSwineAff.pdf>, has been updated to match the one Tyson sent out. This way, counties can use one form for either County Fair 4-H'ers or State Fair 4-H'ers. The form essentially looks the same as in the past. However, there are some changes. 1) The Premise ID line has been added at the top 2) Wording has been added regarding the Japanese MRL (Maximum Residue Limits) requirements along with the web address to those requirements. Youth need to make sure they keep accurate records and include ALL medications and additives on the disclosure form.

Food Safety Concerns and Withdrawal Requirements

Many counties go over programming in their FSQA trainings on the importance for youth to follow feed and drug withdrawal requirements. Although the U.S. and the FDA have their own set of withdrawal requirements, Japan and other countries may have stricter withdrawal periods. The National Pork Board has a listing of products and their requirements located at, <http://www.pork.org/Producers/JapanMRL.aspx> (click on Search at the bottom of the search boxes to get the entire list). This list is updated from time to time, so 4-H'ers should check it often. Many packers require swine to meet or exceed the limits set forth from Japan in order to qualify for their export market.

Important Notice!

More and more packers are increasing their reluctance to purchase fair pigs. There may be one or a number of reasons for this (drug residues, additional testing on fair pigs as required by FSIS (Food Safety and Inspection Service), clipped pigs, etc.). In order to keep this important avenue open to our youth livestock exhibitors and county fairs, youth need to be reminded on the importance and consequences of their actions. **Feed additives and drug additives need to be followed according to their instructions and withdrawal periods!** Even though one youth may only have three pigs to show at a fair, they may think their actions won't affect everyone else. That simply is not the case, and it can take only one occurrence for a packer to simply stop buying fair animals altogether.