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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:

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Premise Identification

The National Animal Identification System is a national program intended to identify specific animals in the United States and record their movement over their life spans. It is being developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State Animal Health Agencies - in cooperation with the industry - to enable 48-hour trace back of the movements of any diseased or exposed animal. This will help to ensure rapid disease containment and maximum protection of America's animals. The livestock involved includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, horses, mules and donkeys.

The first step of process is the Premise Identification. Prior to July 1, 2006, premises in Texas may be registered at no charge, and the premises identification number will remain valid through June 30, 2008. The premises registration must be renewed July 1, 2008 and every 24 months thereafter. At renewal, the proposed regulations provide for a yearly premises registration fee of \$10, paid biennially.

On July 1, 2006, premises registration will be compulsory in Texas. All persons who own, manage or are caretakers for locations where livestock, exotic livestock, poultry or exotic poultry are handled must register their premises with the Texas Animal Health Commission and submit the \$20 two-year fee.

The Premises ID is a number that uniquely identifies a location where livestock are handled or commingled. Once National Animal Identification System is fully implemented, the Individual Animal ID number will provide information on which animals are or were present at a location and the Premises ID will provide information on where the animals are currently located or were located in the past.

There are two ways you can acquire a Premises ID in Texas. You can apply online at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us> or fill out an application and submit it to the Texas Animal Health Commission by e-Mail, postal mail or fax. Applications may be downloaded and/or printed from the TAHC web site , the Gregg County Extension Web page at <http://gregg-tx.tamu.edu/>. Printed forms are also available from the Extension office.

U. S. FOOD CONSUMPTION

It's not news that we're eating more. But how much more, and of what? USDA-Economic Research Service periodically reports US food consumption, actually food availability taking out such things as spoilage, plate waste, etc. From 1970 to 2003, we consumed 23% more calories/day. Calories from dairy products actually decreased slightly. That from vegetable, fruits, and meat/eggs/nuts increased only about 15 to 25 cal./day for each category. But sugars/sweeteners added over 75 cal., grains almost 200 cal., and fats/oils over 200 cal. Grains plus fats/oils accounted for over 75% of the total calorie increase. So, if the average American is getting fatter, and they are, it's not because of eating more red meat. Additional information is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/FoodAvailIndex.htm>.

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