
State of art in and prospects for development of animal identification and recording systems for veterinary surveillance and livestock development in Ukraine

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In preparation for the integration into EC, the program of the adaptation of Eastern Europe countries legislation includes adaptation of the corresponding legislation acts and introduction of the animal identification and registration systems in their countries, tracing of the origin and labeling of products of animal origin, as it is provided in EC legislation in force. The primary condition for trade in live animals is a reliable individual identification of each animal or a group of animals of certain species in order to trace the holding of origin of these animals.

The Ukrainian legal acts which regulate implementation of the identification and registration of animals of all species were prepared with regard to fundamental provisions and harmonized with EC legislation. Due to this owners of animals are obliged to carry out identification and registration of animals and manufacturers (processors) of products of animal origin have to mark the products in accordance with the norms and standards, which are statutory in this sphere.

The animal identification and registration system which is implemented in Ukraine aims to ensure the realisation of the following goals:

- Protect the territory of Ukraine from epizootic diseases.
- Optimize an introduction of veterinary plans concerning prevention, surveillance, treatment and eradication of infectious, invasive and non-contagious diseases.
- Control safety, quality and origin of livestock products.
- Control movements of animals within the country and their import and export.
- Receive update and reliable information concerning population, including sex, age and its location for management improvement and market forecasting with regard to cattle products.
- Provide a visual identification of each animal in a herd.
- Improve an organization of livestock breeding.

**Animal
identification
and
registration
system of
Ukraine**

- Protect consumers' rights due to implementation of a livestock products marking system.

The implementation of the animal identification and registration system in Ukraine is provided by the Ministry of Agricultural Policy (the main executive authority that conduct policy in the given area) and by the competent organization – State Company “Agency on identification and registration of animals” (hereafter – Agency), which was created in accordance with the requirements of EC regulatory legal documents.

The tasks of the Agency are the following:

- Realization of the animal identification and registration.
- Drawing up and issuing the documents for animals (passports and veterinary cards for animals of bovine species; registration certificates for animals of porcine, ovine and caprine species; passports for equidae).
- Supplying the owners of animals with technical means of identification (ear tags and applicators) and registration documents.
- Management of the national electronic database – Animal Register.
- Providing research and information services etc.

The animal identification and registration system includes the following processes:

- Registration of the information concerning the owners of animals and the holding, where animals are kept permanently or temporarily, in the unified national animal register.
- Identification of animals. The individual identification of each animal is provided for bovine, caprine, ovine and equine animals. For poultry and animals of the porcine species it is also used the individual identification of each animal (in the case of breeding animals and animals which are used for reproduction) as well as the group identification of animals or consignments of products, ova etc. with the obligatory indication of the identification (registration) number of the holding of origin on which animals are kept;
- Obligatory up-to-date record keeping (maintenance of register) of animals in each holding, indicating the species of animals, their breeds, the identification data, the information concerning their birth (entering) and leaving, as well as the data on carrying out diagnostic, preventive and medical measures.
- Registration of the information concerning identified animals, their movements, slaughter, death, utilization in the unified national animal register with the purpose of creation of the automatic database.
- Drawing up and issuing of the accompanying documents of agreed forms for an animal or a group of animals. Passports are issued for the animals of bovine and equine species, as it is provided by EC legislation. Registration certificates are used for the animals of other species and for animals intended for reproduction. Documents for movements are issued for the group of the animals, ova and consignment of products.

The “Agency on identification and registration of animals” has a ramified network which consists of regional branches, district representative offices and agents on identification.

The identification of the animals, which belong to a legal person, is carried out by the owner of the holding.

The identification of the animals, which belong to a physical person, is carried out by the agent on identification, who is an employee of the Agency.

The Agency has started the process of the identification of bovine animals in the year 2002, porcine, ovine and caprine animals – in 2005, and equidae – in 2006.

The owners of the holdings, where animals are kept permanently or temporarily, must register their holdings in the Animal Register before the realization of the identification and registration of animals.

All markets, exhibitions, places for slaughter, utilization and other places, where animals may be kept, are to be registered in the Animal Register.

In order to register his holding the owner of animals presents a completed document of an agreed form to the Agency on identification and registration of animals. The Agency enters the data, which is indicated in the registration documents, into the Animal Register.

The Agency assigns the registration number for the holding, which has the following structure:

- 1st and 2nd positions – the number of the region;
- positions from 3 to 8 – the current number of the holding in this region.

In the case of changes of the holding data the owner must present an application for alteration of the information in the Animal Register to the Agency during the period of 7 days.

In order to carry out the animal identification and registration the owner presents an application for carrying out the identification of an agreed form.

Bovine, swine, ovine and caprine animals are identified with two eartags of an agreed form, which are fixed to each ear of the animal.

The ear tag for the identification of bovine animals contains the following information:

- logotype of the Agency;
- identification code of the animal;
- bar-code.

Registration of holdings

Application for identification

Application of ear tags

The identification code of the animal consists of 12 symbols and has the following structure:

- positions 1, 2 – the literal code of the country, where the animal was identified;
- positions 3, 4 – the numerical code of the region, where the animal was identified;
- positions 5-12 – the numerical current code of the animal in the region (where positions 9-12 – the working number of the animal).

The ear tag for the identification of swine contains the logotype of the Agency and the identification code of the animal.

The identification code of the animal consists of 13 symbols and has the following structure:

- positions 1, 2 – the literal code of the country, where the animal was identified;
- positions 3, 4 – the numerical code of the region, where the animal was identified;
- positions 5-13 – the numerical current code of the animal in the region (where positions 9-13 – the working number of the animal).

The ear tag for the identification of ovine and caprine animals contains the logotype of the Agency and the identification code of the animal.

The identification code of the animal consists of 12 symbols and has the following structure:

- positions 1, 2 – the literal code of the country, where the animal was identified;
- positions 3, 4 – the numerical code of the region, where the animal was identified;
- positions 5-12 – the numerical current code of the animal in the region (where positions 9-12 – the working number of the animal).

The ear tags and the equipment for ear tags application are ordered by the owner exclusively in the state company “Agency on identification and registration of animals”.

The ear tags must be fixed to each animal and the following is the tagging period:

- for bovine animals – not later than seven days after the date of birth of the animal and in any case before the animal leaves the holding;
- for porcine animals – not later than seven days after the date of birth of the animal and in any case before the animal leaves the holding;
- for ovine and caprine animals – not later than seven days after the date of birth of the animal and in any case before the animal leaves the holding.

The owner may fix ear tags to animals by himself or invite the agent for this.

The foals are identified before the separation from its mother, but not later than one year from the date of its birth or before the foals leave the holding.

The identification code of the horse consists of 11 symbols and has the following structure:

- positions 1, 2 – the literal code of the country, where the animal was identified;
- positions 3, 4 – the numerical code of the region, where the animal was identified;
- positions 5-11 – the current code of the animal in the region, which is an individual number of an animal.

The identification of a horse means to give a name for the animal, to complete the silhouette, to describe in written the markings of the horse, to assign an identification code, to draw up and issue a passport for the horse.

The horse passport consists of the following sections:

1. Information about the owner.
2. Registration of the change of ownership.
3. Pedigree of the horse (for breeding horses).
4. Identification description of the horse.
5. Checking up of the data concerning the description of markings of the horse.
6. Records concerning the vaccination against equine influenza.
7. Records concerning all other vaccinations (except of equine influenza).
8. Laboratory health tests.

For breeding equidae it is carried out a genetic parentage testing and completion of the pedigree for four lines of ascendants.

The owner or the keeper may order an additional element of identification-microchipping of the horse at his/her own wish.

Animal records should be kept on each holding by means of keeping books of an agreed form or animal record books. The records may be in written or electronic form.

The owner of a breeding farm must keep a breeding record of an agreed form as well as the animal record book.

The Animal Register is a computerized information analysis system, where the information about identified animals, movements, owners, holdings and veterinary health conditions of the animals etc. is processed and stored. This system ensures storage of the animal data, delivery of such information and its protection from an unauthorized penetration.

The identification of equidae

Animal records

Registration of animals in the Animal Register

In order to register the animal in the Animal Register the owner must present to the Agency the completed registration document for the animal. The registration of animals in this database is carried out by the Agency on identification and registration of animals.

The Animal Register should contain the following information about the animal or group of animals:

- identification code of the animal or group of animals;
- breed and line;
- birth data;
- name of the animal;
- sex;
- pedigree of the animal;
- information concerning animal death – the date, registration number, name and address of the holding, where the animal died;
- information about slaughter (utilization) – the date of slaughter (utilization), registration number, name and address of the establishment, where the animal was slaughtered (utilized);
- information concerning the documents, which confirm the identification and registration of the animal or group of animals in the Animal Register;
- information about veterinary health conditions of the animal or group of animals;
- movements of animals.

The following information about the owner should be registered in the Animal Register:

- name of the owner, location, registered office of a juridical person and identification code in the Unified national register of enterprises and organizations of the Ukraine or taxpayer's identification number.

The Register should contain the following information about the holding, on which the animal was born and kept:

- registration number of the holding and the date of its registration in the Animal Register;
- name of the holding;
- information about veterinary health status of a holding;
- information about state veterinary institution that controls a holding;
- address, telephone number, fax, name of a responsible person etc.;

The information about the movements, which is entered into the Animal Register, includes:

- date and reason for leaving;
- registration number and name of the holding from which the animal is moved;
- identification code of the animal;
- registration number and name of the holding to which the animal is moved.

After animals' registration in the Animal Register, the Agency issues:

- for bovine animals – cattle passport and veterinary card;
- for swine (animals which are intended for reproduction) – registration certificate for pigs;
- for ovine/caprine animals – registration certificate for sheeps/goats;
- for equidae – horse passport.

The identification and registration documents for animals contain the following data:

- information about the document – the series, number, date of issue and name of the State Company “Agency on identification and registration of animals”;
- information about the animal – the working number, identification code, name, date of birth, sex, breed code and its description;
- information about pedigree – the identification numbers of the parents, its names and breed codes;
- information about the owner and the holding, on which the animal is kept;
- information about animals movements;
- silhouette (if it is the horse passport);
- information about animal health.

The animals may be moved only if they are identified and registered in the Animal Register in accordance with the applicable procedure and are accompanied by the accompanying identification documents during their movements.

When animals are moved from the holding the owner checks up the presence of the ear tags which are affixed on each ear of the animal, enters the information about the animal's departure (the date and reason) in the animal record book of the holding, fills up the identification and accompanying documents. Before the dispatch of animals the owner ought to check up once more the compliance of the numbers, which are indicated on the ear tags of the animal, with those which are stated in the accompanying documents (for horses – the identity of the horse markings with the horse passport data). The owner must send the information concerning the animal's departure to the Agency within the period of 3 days.

After the arrival of the animal to the holding of destination the owner checks up the compliance of the identification code of the animal, indicated on its ear tags and stated in the accompanying documents (for horses – the identity of horse markings with the horse passport data); enters the information about the animal's arrival in the animal record book of the holding and sends the information concerning the animal's arrival to the Agency.

All the information about animals movements and changes of ownership are to be entered in the Animal Register.

Identification and registration documents for animals

Animals movements

Awareness of public and experts concerning the implementation of the identification and registration of the animals

The central office of the State company “AIRT” and the employees of the Agency in the 25 regions of the country carry on public awareness efforts regarding the animal identification and registration in the Ukraine on a monthly basis. The Agency holds numerous meetings (approximately 40 per month) with the specialists of veterinary services, employees of agricultural administrations, zootechnicians, managers of holdings and organizes meetings with the animals’ owners in the countryside.

Every month about 30-40 articles are published, 20-30 radio and TV performances are made, information commercials and films are shown. Each year the State Company “AIRT” takes part in the general agricultural exhibition of the country “Agro”.

The Agency has drawn up and ratified an education and training program for the competent agents on identification and registration of bovine animals (for the extension courses of breeders).