

The National Animal Identification & Traceability System

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The Government of Jamaica, through the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Veterinary Services Division, implements a National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS). This is with the view to enhance animal disease surveillance and the traceability of animals and products of animal origin; safeguard animal health and address food safety issues in support of the development of a modern livestock sector. The system is in line with international standards and is an important element in support of the Government's goal for increased competitiveness of Jamaica's agricultural sector in the local and export markets.

NAITS is an identification and registration system for the Jamaican livestock population beginning with bovine animals (cattle), which incorporates information on their identity, ownership, geographical location and movement activity. All information gathered will be stored electronically (in a database) under the control of the Director of the Veterinary Services Division, who is the designated Registrar, by Law; through the "Animals (Diseases and Importation) (Marking of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 2015" under the "Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act". **As such, it is mandatory.** Through the use of the database, the system will be monitored and the traceability feature enabled.

Visual ear tags are affixed to the animal/s ears and a bovine passport containing the same identification number as that on the ear tags is issued to the owner and **must accompany** the animal when moved from one establishment to another.

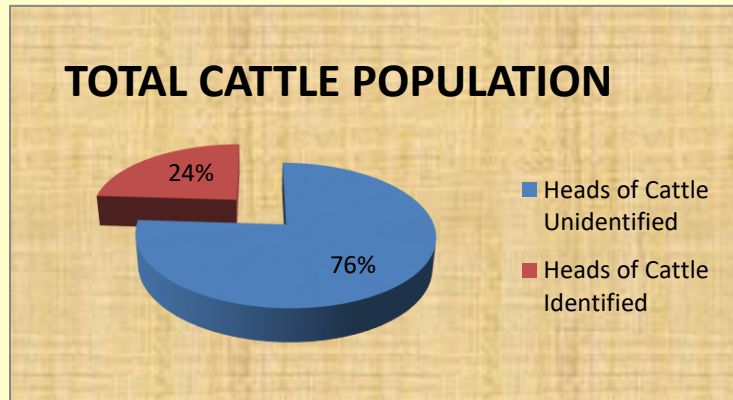
Since the enactment of legislation "Regulations on the Marking of Bovine Animals", all owners of cattle are required



to make arrangement to have their establishment registered and all cattle thereon registered with the NAITS.

First identification is of no cost to the farmer however, the cost is being shared proportionately up to the second and third generation of animals, where the full cost will be borne by the farmer thereafter. The estimated cost is approximately J\$300.00/animal. .

To date, approximately 22,000 representing 24% of the estimated heads of cattle in Jamaica have been identified with approximately 350 establishments registered.



Full implementation is foreseen in another two (2) to three (3) years all things being equal and will result in full control of the meat/animal that legally enters the food chain. This will poise farmers for the export market in addition to garnering local trust in their products for wholesomeness and safety, and significantly reduce larceny of livestock, thus increasing revenue for farmers.



It is important to note here that, the NAITS cannot achieve its objectives in isolation but only through collaboration with other arms of the Government/Agencies, stakeholders and the Jamaican Public.

Be part of the process to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.