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World Deer News

NAIT New Zealand

The National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) scheme is becoming mandatory for cattle in NZ on July 1, this year. NAIT Ltd says the costs involved with the tag and slaughter levies that farmers will pay equate to about \$2.50 over the lifetime of the animal. The NAIT scheme provides information on individual animal locations and movements. It is intended to enhance New Zealand's ability to respond more quickly in the event of a biosecurity threat such as a disease outbreak.

The NAIT number links the person in charge of animals with the animals' location, and the animals themselves. It is the property location of the animals, rather than property ownership, which is important for lifetime traceability.

Deer join the scheme on March 1, 2013. NAIT will recover 2 per cent of its operating costs from Deer Industry New Zealand, which will in turn recover this cost from its members.

As part of the transitional process, existing animals that are "impractical to tag" can be sent to meat processors without NAIT tags. This will be subject to payment of an "impractical to tag" levy. For the 2012-2013 financial year, the "impractical to tag" levy will be \$13 excluding GST per head. These animals will only be eligible for the levy if they are being transported directly to meat processors. The "impractical to tag" levy covers the NAIT Ltd costs associated with manually processing an untagged animal and acts as an incentive to tag animals wherever practical.

All off-farm movements of cattle and deer must be reported to NAIT, as well as deaths, losses or live exports. The main foreseeable problem seems to be with lifestyle farmers (approx. 60,000 of them) and the ability to police compliance.