

PIC amalgamation advantages and disadvantages

Advantages of amalgamation

- Use of a single set of National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) devices/tags, ordered for and printed with one PIC, will be required on stock on any of their amalgamated holdings.
- Only one National Vendor Declaration (NVD) book (if using a physical book) is required for all amalgamated holdings.
- Only required to maintain one set of records for audit under the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) scheme.
- Stock may be moved between amalgamated land holdings without needing to attach devices/tags.
- Recording the movement of livestock between amalgamated holdings is not a requirement on the NLIS database.

Disadvantages of amalgamation

- All holdings covered by the same PIC will share the same disease and residue status, which will be the status of the highest-risk parcel of land.
- Market assurance program accreditations may be lost if all properties being amalgamated are not accredited.
- If one holding has a higher disease or residue risk, there could be merit in keeping this as a separate property with its own PIC.
- Any disease or residue traceback on an animal from the amalgamated property's PIC will implicate all holdings amalgamated under that PIC.
- New quarantines or statuses will apply to all stock on amalgamated holdings, unless and until further investigations are able to prove otherwise (this may take months for some diseases).

