

# Increased taxes and food costs? Local food sources driven out of business? Government-mandated microchipping of animals?

Industrial agriculture and technology companies are urging the government to adopt a program that will drive many small farms out of business, burden horse owners, invade Americans' privacy, deprive us of our property rights, increase the cost of meat, and expand the government bureaucracy.

If the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is made mandatory, anyone who owns even **one horse, chicken, cow, pig, sheep, goat**, or any other livestock or exotic, will have to:

- ◆ Register their premises with the state and federal government;
- ◆ Identify each animal, in most cases with electronic identification;
- ◆ Report "events" to a government-accessible database within 24 hours, including every dead or missing animal, private sales, and regional shows.



## NAIS will:

- ◆ violate individuals' constitutional rights, including freedom of religion & right to privacy.
- ◆ reduce the availability of local, organic, and grass-fed foods
- ◆ interfere with the enjoyment of our horses and other pets
- ◆ raise the cost of food, because tagging and tracking costs will be passed on to consumers
- ◆ create a massive government bureaucracy

## NAIS will NOT:

- ◆ make food safer since most food-borne illnesses, such as e coli and salmonella, are due to food processing and handling practices, not live animals.
- ◆ protect us against bioterrorism. The proposed microchips and radio tags are easily reprogrammed. Large databases are easy targets for terrorists or other criminals.

Although NAIS is voluntary at the federal level, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has required thousands of people to register their properties in order for their children to compete in the state fair. HB 5776 was filed to stop that! It also allows people to withdraw from the program.

**Even if IDOA reverses its mandatory policy for this year, HB 5776 needs to be adopted to prevent future mandatory registrations and tagging, and to let the people who were forced into the program to get back out.**

**Call and write your legislators to stop NAIS in Illinois! Support HB 5776!**

For more information, go to [www.NAIstruth.org](http://www.NAIstruth.org)  
or call 1-866-687-6452 (Toll free)

turn over for important contacts and talking points →

## Please call your Senator NOW to support HB 5776

On April 1, the Illinois House of Representatives unanimously approved HB 5776. Now it's on to the Senate! Below is a list of the Senators on the Agriculture Committee. Please call the Committee members to ask them to support HB 5776. Then call your own Senator and ask him or her to co-sponsor. You can find out who represents you at <http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx?NavLink=1> or by calling 217-782-3944.

Senator Name	Phone number	District office location
John Sullivan	217-782-2479	Quincy and Macomb
Michael Frerichs	217-782-2507	Champaign
Deanna Emuzio	217-782-8206	Carlinville
Linda Holmes	217-782-0422	Plainfield
AJ Wilhelmi	217-782-8800	Crest Hill
Gary Dahl	217-782-3840	Peru
Tim Bivins	217-782-0180	
John Jones	217-782-0471	Mt. Vernon
David Luechtefeld	217-782-8137	Okawville

### **Talking points for calls and letters:**

- It is wrong to use our children to implement a controversial program opposed by many of their parents.
- NAIS is not a good program for Illinois, even beyond the issue of our children.
- NAIS will hurt Illinois' economy:
  - No agency has completed a cost-benefit analysis.
  - Costs of the program include the cost of the tags, hardware, software, time and labor
  - Many small farmer and ranchers cannot afford these costs
  - Service providers (veterinarians, feed stores, auction houses, meat processors, etc.) will be harmed when the farmers and ranchers go out of business.
  - Remaining farmers will pass the costs on to consumers, lowering demand for local foods
- Neither the USDA nor the Illinois Agriculture Department has scientific proof that NAIS will improve disease control:
  - It does not address the cause, treatment, or transmission of disease, in domestic or wild animals.
  - It does not significantly improve on current methods for identification and tracking of disease.
- NAIS will not improve food safety
  - USDA itself has stated that this is not a food safety program
  - Contamination of food with e. coli and other bacteria occurs at the slaughterhouse or afterwards, while NAIS will stop before that point.
- NAIS is not necessary for the market. Age- and source-verification is already available through the USDA's Process Verified Program
- NAIS will not protect against terrorism and the technology is flawed
  - The microchips chosen by the state can be cloned, destroyed, or infected with computer viruses, and reprogrammed. Any terrorist or thief can use this.
  - The database of information, created by the state agency and available to USDA, will provide a target for hackers.
- NAIS infringes on people's constitutional rights, including due process, privacy, and religious freedom.
- NAIS unfairly attacks the rights of pet owners and those who raise animals as food for their family.
- USDA states that NAIS is voluntary at the federal level, so there is no "federal mandate" requiring Illinois to implement this program
- Other states are also rejecting or limiting NAIS, so Illinois will not be disadvantaged by refusing to participate.