

Increased taxes and food costs

Local food sources driven out of business

Government-mandated microchipping

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 our privacy, 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 property 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.

NAIS is both a federal and a state issue:

The USDA says that the NAIS is voluntary at the federal level. But USDA is funding the States to implement NAIS at the state level, and that funding creates incentives for States to use mandatory, misleading or coercive methods in order to increase participation. And Congress is considering putting NAIS in the Farm Bill and other bills to fund and implement NAIS.

Contact Congress now. Ask them to STOP the implementation and funding of NAIS.

For more information, go to www.farmandranchfreedom.org or call 1-866-687-6452

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This is a SAMPLE letter: Personalize your letter – tell them how you will be affected!

Key people to call or write:

- Representative Peterson, Chair, House Agriculture Committee, Phone: 202-225-2171, Fax: 202-225-8510
- Representative DeLauro, Chair, House Ag Appropriations, Phone: 202-225-2638, Fax: 202-225-4890
- Senator Harkin, Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee, Phone: 202-224-2035, Fax: 202-224-9369
- Senator Kohl, Chair, Senate Ag Appropriations, Phone: 202-224-8090, Fax: 202-224-9787
- Your Congressman & Senator, www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm and www.house.gov/writerep. Or call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 **or toll free at 877-851-6437.**

You can write just one letter, and send copies to each elected official!

Dear _____:

I oppose the implementation of a national animal identification system (NAIS), and I ask that you do not include any provisions for a national animal identification system in the Farm Bill, the Food Safety Act, or any other bill. I also ask that you support bills to stop NAIS, including ending funding of State programs.

I am a _____ (horse owner, small farmer, consumer of organic foods ... tell them why you care about this issue)

Never before in the history of our country has a person had to report to the state simply because he or she owns animals. NAIS represents an unprecedented expansion of the government bureaucracy into people's private lives and infringes on our property and privacy rights. NAIS will impose heavy burdens on livestock owners, driving many small and medium-size farmers and ranchers out of business. These burdens will also discourage people from owning livestock, such as horses, as pets. The economic effects will be wide-reaching.

The stated reason for NAIS, disease tracking, is both insufficient and unfounded. Fears of disease cannot justify every possible intrusion into people's lives. Moreover, the government already has in place existing programs and systems that are sufficient to track disease. In addition, NAIS fails to address the significant differences among different types of premises, and the risks of creating a black market in livestock ownership. Disease must be addressed on a species-specific basis, with an understanding of the causes of the different diseases and the ways the diseases are transmitted. A one-size-fits-all program is useless. And tracking disease 48 hours after the fact will do nothing to prevent disease in the first place.

Rather than protecting us from disease, NAIS will increase the consolidation of our food supply into the hands of large companies who are willing and able to accept the financial burdens, and the government intrusion of NAIS. This will make us *more* vulnerable, not less, to the spread of disease and disruptions in food supply, whether from natural disasters or terrorism. Our safety and security lie in a diversified, local food supply.

I request that you support legislation that would **stop** all federal funding for this program and prevent the USDA from using coercion to encourage state participation. There should be **no** provisions for a national animal identification system in the Farm Bill, Food Safety Act, or any other bill.

I look forward to your written response. Thank you for your time and attention.

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Email, if you have it