



## Action Alert National Animal Identification System



The National Animal Identification System (N.A.I.S.) is gaining traction in Washington D.C., and we have the opportunity to let USDA know that the program will adversely affect thousands of Missouri farmers, while doing nothing for food safety concerns. This week members of Missouri Farmers Union were in Washington D.C. to deliver your views to House and Senate offices and participate in the National Farmers Union Convention. Please join the Missouri members by expressing your opinion on this program to USDA and your elected leaders.

Pro-NAIS forces have used myths to try to get farmers and consumers to buy into the NAIS program. Now it is the time to convey the message that NAIS will severely and negatively impact independent family farmers, consumers who care about local and sustainable foods, taxpayers who object to wasteful government programs and advocates for a safer food system.

### **What You Need To Do:**

Immediate action must be taken to give us any chance to deter this program. Please do the following:

- 1. Send your comments to USDA before the March 16<sup>th</sup> deadline (instruction below).**
- 2. Contact your Missouri Representative and Senators and share your comments (contact information below).**

USDA and Congress need to hear:

- **The NAIS program duplicates effective disease prevention programs already in place.**
- **As a direct result, jobs will be lost, tax revenue will be lost and rural communities will suffer. The requirement for producers to tag individual animals places an unfair burden on our farmers.**
- **The system may give large competitors access to proprietary information.**
- **The program's original purpose was to provide traceability so large producers could meet Japanese import requirements. This was changed to "disease prevention" when it became clear that the program was designed to give competitive advantages to agri-business.**
- **Chipping animals that live less than a year creates a financial windfall (a "razor blades" demand) for one manufacturer at the expense of the**

entire livestock producing community. The potential market is billions of chips per year.

- Excluding large producers from the chipping requirement creates another unfair marketing advantage for agribusiness.
- Exemptions for large producers ignore the medical reality that epidemic illnesses (like avian flu) are caused and spread by crowding and unsanitary living conditions.
- Allowing the program to be administered by private contractors rather than an appropriate federal agency will encourage fraud and violation of producer privacy.

### Who You Need To Contact:

1. **Submit comments to USDA through at the Federal eRulemaking Portal at:**

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0096>

To do this, please click the link above or copy and paste it into your browser. Under the first entry "Official Animal Identification Numbering Systems" click on the yellow "Add comments" balloon to the right, then enter all necessary contact information and your comments.

**OR**

### Submit 2 copies of comments to USDA by postal mail to:

Docket No. APHIS–2007–0096  
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8  
4700 River Road Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20737–1238

\*Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS–2007–0096.

2. **Call or e-mail your comments to Missouri Congressional offices. Send to Senator Bond, Senator McCaskill and your Representative (see contact information below). To find your Representative visit:**  
<http://capwiz.com/nfu/home/>

### Missouri Senators

*Senator Kit Bond*

274 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5721

*Senator Claire McCaskill*

Hart Senate Office Building, SH-717  
Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-6154

**Missouri Representatives**

*Congressperson Lacy Clay (1st District)*

2418 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2406

*Congressperson Todd Akin (2nd District)*

117 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2561

*Congressperson Russ Carnahan (3rd District)*

1710 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2671

*Congressperson Ike Skelton (4th District)*

2206 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515-2504

(202) 225-2876

*Congressperson Emanuel Cleaver (5th District)*

1027 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4535

*Congressperson Sam Graves (6th District)*

1415 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-7041

*Congressperson Roy Blunt (7th District)*

2229 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-6536

*Congressperson JoAnne Emerson (8th District)*

2440 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4404

*Congressperson Blaine Luetkemeyer (9th District)*

1118 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2956

Keep us posted on your progress, and call the Missouri Farmers Union at (573) 659-4787 if you need assistance.