



USDA Listening Session National Animal Identification System Scheduled for June 9 in Jefferson City

**Truman Hotel & Conference Center
1510 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, MO
Tuesday, June 9th: 9AM-4PM**

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) 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. Please plan to attend the listening session on June 9th. If you need assistance with transportation, directions or talking points, please contact Missouri Farmers Union.

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. Attend the listening session on June 9. Please have prepared comments ready, if possible, and remember there might be opportunities to visit with media.**
- 2. Submit written comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=090000648097159c> or mail to:**

ATTN NAIS, Surveillance and Identification Programs
National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS
4700 River Road Unit 200
Riverdale, MD 20737

USDA needs 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 agribusiness.
- 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.

Directions:

The Truman Hotel & Conference Center is conveniently located off of Highway 54. Exit onto Jefferson Street or Ellis Boulevard. Only 1.5 miles from the State Capitol and downtown area.

Directions From St. Louis to Jefferson City:

Take I-70 West to the Kingdom City Exit 148 (Highway 54). Take Highway 54 West towards Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 54 until you come to the Jefferson Street/Stadium Exit. Take Jefferson Street Exit – make a left at the Stop Sign onto Jefferson Street. Go up the hill and the hotel is on the right.

OR Take I-44 West to Exit 247 (Highway 50 West). Take Highway 50 West (from Union) to Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 50 West until you come to the Jefferson Street Exit. Take a left onto Jefferson Street and follow for about 3 miles. You will go through the intersection of Stadium and Jefferson. As you go up the hill the hotel will be on the right hand side.

Directions From Kansas City to Jefferson City:

Take I-70 East to Jefferson City Exit 128A (Highway 63 Columbia). Take Highway 63 South towards Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 63 until you come to the Jefferson City Exit (Highway 54). Stay on Highway 54 until you come to the Jefferson Street/Stadium Exit. Take Jefferson Street Exit – make a left at the Stop Sign onto Jefferson Street. Go up the hill and the hotel is on the right.

OR Take Highway 50 East. Stay on Highway 50 towards Jefferson City. Take the Lake Ozark Exit (Highway 54). Take Highway 54 West until you come to the Jefferson Street/Stadium Exit. Take Jefferson Street Exit – make a left at the Stop Sign onto Jefferson Street. Go up the hill and the hotel is on the right.

Directions From Springfield to Jefferson City:

Take I-44 East towards St. Louis. At Exit 129 (Lebanon) take the Lake Ozark Exit (Highway 5). Take Highway 5 North to Camdenton. At Camdenton take Highway 54 East to Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 54 until you come to Ellis Blvd/Southwest Blvd Exit. Turn left onto the overpass and take the 1st right onto Jefferson Street (outer road). Go down the hill the hotel will be on the left hand side.

OR Take Highway 65 North to Highway 54 East to Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 54 until you come to Ellis Blvd/Southwest Blvd Exit. Turn left onto the overpass and take the 1st

right onto Jefferson Street (outer road). Go down the hill the hotel will be on the left hand side.

Directions From Columbia to Jefferson City:

Take Highway 63 South towards Jefferson City. Stay on Highway 63 until you come to the Jefferson City Exit (Highway 54). Stay on Highway 54 until you come to the Jefferson Street/Stadium Exit. Take Jefferson Street Exit – make a left at the Stop Sign onto Jefferson Street. Go up the hill and the hotel is on the right.

Directions From Rolla to Jefferson City:

Take Highway 63 North to Exit Highway 50 West. Stay on Highway 50 West until you come to the Jefferson Street Exit. Take a left onto Jefferson Street and follow for about 3 miles. You will go through the intersection of Stadium and Jefferson. As you go up the hill the hotel will be on the right hand side.

For more information, contact:

Missouri Farmers Union

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