



Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund[®]

Legal Representation ♦ Political Action ♦ Education

Take Action

Attend USDA Listening Sessions on NAIS!

Please come to these meetings! You can have an impact simply by being there and showing that a lot of people are opposed to NAIS! You can submit written comments whether you attend or not!

The USDA is holding seven “listening sessions” about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The NAIS would impose severe hardships on small farmers, and impact anyone who owns even one livestock or poultry animal, even those raising animals for their own food or as pets. While benefiting Big Ag’s export market, NAIS could cripple small farmers providing grass-fed meats, eggs, and dairy to local consumers.

Key Congressional leaders have called for a mandatory NAIS, and Secretary Vilsack has indicated that he plans to push forward with some sort of program soon. **It’s going to take a lot of people speaking up loud and clear to keep a mandatory NAIS from being imposed on every livestock owner in America!** These listening sessions are a critical opportunity to get media attention on NAIS and demonstrate the level of opposition to the program.

Participate in meetings from 9 am to 4 pm. at these locations	
Register to speak in the morning or participate in the afternoon sessions; see reverse side for details.	
Thu. - May 14	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, 2300 N Cameron St.
Mon. - May 18	Pasco, Washington Trac Center, 6600 Burden Blvd.
Wed. - May 20	Austin, Texas Embassy Suites Hotel Austin Central, 5901 N IH-35
Thu. - May 21	Birmingham, Alabama Cahaba Grand Convention Center, 3660 Grandview Parkway
Fri. - May 22	Louisville, Kentucky Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport, 830 Phillips Lane
Wed. - May 27	Storrs, Connecticut University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus—Bishop Center, One Bishop Circle
Mon. - June 1	Greeley, Colorado - Location to be determined check http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/feedback or call Dr. Grow at APHIS

USDA contact for more information: Dr. Adam Grow, Director, Surveillance and Identification Programs, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 200, Riverdale, MD 20737; 301-734-3752.

You can also check USDA’s website for more information: <http://www.usda.gov/nais/feedback>

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WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Ø Plan a short statement (3-5 minutes) to speak in the morning.
- Ø Bring written comments. It's best to bring two copies – one to hand to USDA staff and one to keep for your records. You may call the FTCLDF at 703-208-3276 for talking points.
- Ø Participate in the afternoon “facilitated sessions” in which attendees will be divided into groups to develop solutions. **Be prepared to politely disagree with the facilitator. If they claim that a “consensus” has been reached with an answer that you don’t agree with, say so!**
- Ø Submit comments online before or after the meeting. Go to www.regulations.gov, in the Search field type “aphis-2009-0027”; a USDA official has stated that the **deadline is Monday, June 1**. See sample at <http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/action-020209> for ideas.

REGISTRATION – Register to speak in the morning or participate in the afternoon sessions.

Pre-register by Phone Call APHIS at 301-734-0799	Pre-register by Email sent to NAISSessions@aphis.usda.gov	Register on Site from 8am-9pm the day of the meeting
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To **pre-register by email**, in the **subject line** indicate your name (or organization name) and location of the meeting you plan to attend. If you wish to present public comments during a meeting, include your address in the **body** of the message.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NAIS at

<http://www.FarmAndRanchFreedom.org> and <http://www.farmtoconsumer.org/nais.html>

USDA’s STATEMENT

In the Federal Register notice announcing the meetings, USDA specifically asked for input on the topics listed below. These questions will most likely form the basis for the facilitated sessions in the afternoon of each listening session. Do not feel limited by these questions in preparing your oral or written comments!!

- ✓ **Cost**. What are your concerns about the cost of the NAIS? What steps would you suggest APHIS use to address cost?
- ✓ **Impact on small farmers**. What are your concerns about the effect of the NAIS on small farmers? What approaches would you suggest APHIS take to address the potential impact on small farmers?
- ✓ **Privacy and confidentiality**. What are your concerns regarding how the NAIS will affect your operation's privacy and/or the confidentiality of your operation? What steps or tactics would you suggest APHIS use to address privacy and confidentiality issues?
- ✓ **Liability**. What are your concerns about your operation's liability under the NAIS? What would you suggest APHIS consider to address liability concerns?
- ✓ **Premises registration**. Do you have any suggestions on how to make premises registration, or the identification of farm or ranch locations, easier for stakeholders? How should we address your concerns regarding premises registration?
- ✓ **Animal identification**. Do you have any suggestions on how to make animal identification practical and useful to stakeholders while simultaneously meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?
- ✓ **Animal tracing**. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the animal tracing component practical, in particular the reporting of animal movements to other premises, while meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?"

USDA’s Federal Register notice is posted at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-10037.htm>