



Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund®

Legal Representation ♦ Political Action ♦ Education

Reasons to Stop the NAIS (National Animal Identification System)

This costly and poorly conceived program is now mandatory in some states. It requires farmers to tag each animal, in most cases using electronic identification, and report off-farm movements to a database via computer. Here are good reasons to nip this program in the bud.

1. **Not needed.** We have existing tracking systems that have met our needs for decades.
2. **Expensive.** The government has spent over \$100 million on just the first stage so far, with no cost-benefit analysis. The costs of the whole program could easily be \$37 or more per animal, creating a multi-billion dollar expense that will ultimately be paid through increased taxes and costs of food.
3. **Technology-dependent.** NAIS requires computers and internet access. Amish farmers don't have electricity, and many other farmers don't have or want internet access. This program makes high-tech companies rich, at the expense of everyone else.
4. **Corporate welfare.** The factory farms get to use "group identification", while small farmers are stuck tagging each animal.
5. **Won't improve food safety.** The tags are removed at the slaughterhouse, so NAIS does not improve our ability to track animals into the food chain. It won't prevent sick animals from being used for human consumption and won't prevent or improve recalls.
6. **Will reduce food safety and choices!** Because of its high costs and government intrusion, NAIS will drive small farmers out of business, reducing people's ability to buy local foods directly from farmers. Eating local is your best way to "source verify" your food!
7. **Animal welfare.** Studies indicate that microchips may cause cancer in animals. And by continuing to push farmers to "get big or get out", NAIS will increase the number of animals in inhumane factory farm system.
8. **Exploding government bureaucracy.**
9. **Religious freedom.** Many Amish, Mennonites, and other Christian farmers consider the mandatory microchipping to be the fulfillment of Revelations, and they cannot comply.
10. **Privacy and property rights.** NAIS would create the first permanent federal registration system for land and personal property. It would require reporting of normal, daily events in people's lives – buying or selling an animal, taking horses to shows, or providing food for their own table.
11. **Impossible to implement.** The USDA can't monitor what is being done to cows in 100 slaughter plants. How can they keep track of 180 million animals (and billions of chickens) on more than a million farms? The only country to implement electronic tagging of cattle, Australia, has a database that is in chaos.
12. **Impossible to enforce.** The government says they don't have the resources to enforce the current laws, including inspecting imported foods and slaughterhouses in this country! NAIS will create a black market for animal ownership and make lawbreakers out of ordinary citizens.
13. **Where does it end?** Some of the same high-tech companies want to microchip humans, and are already pushing to microchip children, the elderly and prisoners.

Available at <http://www.ftcldf.org/nais.html>