

Declaration of Robert R. Keyworth

UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, I, Robert R. Keyworth, make the following declaration.

My name is Robert R. Keyworth. I reside at 8702 Arendt Road, Yale, Michigan 48097. My father's name is Robert E. Keyworth. I farmed with my Dad for forty-five years. We had a cow/calf beef operation. At the peak of our operation, we had fifty cows. Our home farm has been in the family since 1867. My dad passed away twelve years ago and we continued the operation with our children. Due to increasingly burdensome regulations over the years, we have continually downsized to the point where our farm now only has 13 cows. Our annual gross sales are about \$10,000.

Our farm has always tried to benefit the environment by engaging in chemical-free farming. It has been chemical-free for over sixty years. We farm naturally and as organically as possible by using only animal manure as fertilizer. Further, we have never given our animals any hormones.

Our soil management practices have contributed significantly to the quality of the environment on our farm. We have seven two-acre plots on our farm which we rotate between crops and cattle grazing. We use each plot for two years as a feedlot where cows are fed on round bales of hay followed by using the plot the next three years for crops. The hay acts as compost for the soil. Our soil is healthy and requires minimal tillage.

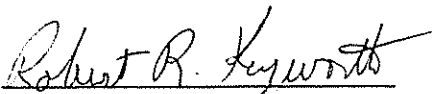
If the cost of complying with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) puts us out of the cattle business, some of our land will be left idle and the soil quality will deteriorate. The twenty-plus acres of flood plain on our property which currently is good for cattle grazing (but not for growing crops) will revert to brush.

The NAIS electronic ID tag (RFID) requirement will mean additional expenses for our operation. We previously received metal ID tags from the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) for free now we are being charged three to five dollars for each RFID tag attached at the stockyard to our cattle. If MDA puts the tracking requirement for NAIS into effect, the time and expense of complying with the tracking regulations will drive us to the point where we will quit our business.

I have long-standing customers, some of whom have been purchasing from me for over six years. My customers want to buy chemical-free, naturally raised beef that is not genetically altered. If my operation and other small farms similar to it go out of business, my customers and people like them will only be able to buy the hormone-packed meat from feedlot operations.

In addition to being a farmer, I am also a Pentecostal minister. I sent a letter to MDA stating that I did not want the premises registration number, but was told that I had to have it. It is my sincerely held religious belief that NAIS represents the "mark of the beast" without which one cannot "buy or sell" as described in the Book of Revelation 13:16-18. It is the technology that distinguishes NAIS from prior animal identification programs. NAIS establishes a system for universal control in which one can neither buy nor sell cattle without first having a premises identification number and electronic ID for the animals. I believe that anyone taking the mark shall suffer God's wrath (Revelation 14:9-11).

FURTHER DECLARANT SAYETH NAUGHT


Signed: Robert R. Keyworth

5-10-08
Date

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of St. Clair.
My commission expires 8-23-13.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my presence, this day May 10, 2008 by Robert R. Keyworth.


Signature Notary Public

MELISSA D. SCHUTT
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Aug 23, 2013
ACTING IN COUNTY OF St. Clair