

# NO MANDATORY ID FOR AG ANIMALS



**Northern Plains Resource Council's campaign to prevent implementation of a mandatory National Animal Identification System on Montana's livestock and other farm animals.**

## NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently in the process of implementing a National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

NAIS is designed to identify and track each and every individual livestock and poultry animal owned by family farm producers or hobby farmers across the country.

Put forth as a disease tracking and trace back security program, its actual intent is more sinister. NAIS will usurp existing, well-functioning disease response and brand inspection programs run in states, while putting more burden through cost and liability on the shoulders of producers and famers. Furthermore, this program does nothing to serve as a food safety tool for consumers or a disease prevention system for producers.

When this cumbersome and costly plan was met with resistance, USDA "hired" states as their hirelings hoping to entice farmers and ranchers to participate. The farmers and ranchers impacted by this program have added up the costs and understand that USDA has set up an expensive, centralized system that only duplicates tracking systems that already work while doing nothing to stop disease or inform consumers.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**Do not volunteer** to be a part of any premises ID or federal animal tracking system until you know all the details.

**Contact your legislators.** Tell them that you do not want any form of mandatory National Animal Identification or Premises Registration pushed on you or your operation.

#### Urge Montana legislators to pass:

- **HB 551: NO MANDATED FEDERAL ANIMAL ID** – sponsored by Rep. Dennis Getz (D-Glendive) would prohibit the state from requiring a mandatory National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in Montana. NAIS would require all owners of livestock to register their ranches or homes, microchip every animal, and report all animal movements within 48 hours. NAIS will be expensive for all small livestock owners, invade privacy, does nothing to prevent disease, and will be no more effective at tracing back disease than methods in use now.
- **HB 592: ANTI-NAIS** – sponsored by Rep. Lee Randall (R-Broadus) would establish restrictions on implementing the National Animal Identification System in Montana. *This bill and Rep. Getz's bill are similar.*

**Join Northern Plains** in fighting this USDA overreach into Montana's ranches. Call Northern Plains at (406) 248-1154 and get on the list of people who will fight for independent producers.

# NATIONAL ANIMAL ID BAD FOR INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS

## TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

### Premises Registration:

Every person who owns any livestock animal would have to register the premises where the livestock is held. Livestock animals include cattle, hogs, sheep and goats, chickens and other poultry, horses, bison, deer and elk, alpacas and llamas.

### Animal Identification:

There will be two levels of animal identification: individual animal and lot identification. Most animals in the program would be individually identified with a unique 15-digit number and either implanted with a microchip or tagged with a radio frequency device.

### Animal Tracking:

Every time an animal is tagged, a tag is lost or a tag reapplied, an animal dies or is missing, the event would have to be reported to the government within 24 hours. "Commingling events" such as private and public sales, regional shows, and exhibitions will also have to be reported.



NAIS money has been used to influence non-government organizations into a public/private partnership. The FFA and the 4H Club received large sums in support of its member children coercing their parents to sign up. Registration has been mandatory for anyone wishing to display an animal at state fairs, and veterinarians were encouraged to register animals without the consent of the owner. Strict enforcement involves fines, inspections of properties and the potential for confiscation or redistribution of livestock done by the USDA or state governments without trial or legal hearing and with no compensation to the owner of the animals. Failure to register the home or farm with a Premise ID called for a fine of \$1,000 per day.

- Barbara Minton, Natural News, Jan. 28, 2009

## Keep informed! Take action! Join

Northern Plains Resource Council is a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group that organizes Montana citizens to protect our water quality, family farms and ranches, and our unique quality of life.

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