

Stop Animal ID (Federal & State)

Congress is considering legislation (officially, HR 3170, and two companion bills HR 1256 and HR 1254) that will virtually destroy the small livestock farmers and make recreational livestock activities a thing of the past. Small-scale livestock producers, owners of backyard flocks, hobbyists and individuals raising show birds, horses, and other animals may soon be subjected to regulations under this proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS). And, even though this legislation has not been passed, the US Department of Agriculture is implementing NAIS as so-called “pilot” programs. As if this wasn’t enough, many states are establishing their own universal animal identification programs designed after NAIS.

Animals covered by NAIS:

- Cows
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Horses
- Elk
- Deer
- Llamas
- Alpacas
- Goats
- Bison
- Poultry
- Waterfowl

**We must act now to stop the USDA’s NAIS
and all legislation that establishes universal individual livestock and premises identification.**

What NAIS Requires: Under the proposed legislation, you will be required to identify *every* bird, horse, goat, sheep, pig or cow you own with either an expensive microchip like those injected under the skin of dogs (estimated cost \$15-30 per chip), or (for birds) a 13- or 15-digit leg band. You will be required to register every animal with a central database that will include the animal’s identification number, plus a “property identification number” (essentially your address). For poultry, banding/microchipping will commence at hatching. No exceptions are provided for small farms, 4H, or other livestock activities that have no part in large commercial livestock operations.

NAIS Is Window-Dressing: While well-meaning, the NAIS regulations are a misguided attempt to make the American public believe the government can control outbreaks of any and all animal diseases, ranging from BSE (“Mad Cow” disease) to Avian Influenza.

NAIS Won’t Work Because:

- ✓ It’s designed for marketing purposes.
- ✓ The database is impossible to design, build, or maintain, with hundreds of millions of annual reports.
- ✓ Tagging costs in poultry will be 8 times the cost of an individual bird.
- ✓ It won’t control disease, just build a bureaucracy.
- ✓ It will cost more than real disease control methods.

NAIS Is Already Being Implemented: The government has already started assigning ID numbers to farms, members of NPPI, Scrapies program, etc. Ohio and other states are being used as “pilot” states. Citizens are not told NAIS is voluntary. Feed stores around the country are requiring citizens to give their names and addresses when they buy livestock feed.

NAIS is Illegal and Unconstitutional—the USDA is acting without Authority

We small farmers and individual livestock breeders have no central organization. The only means we have of blocking this legislation, which will do nothing to protect the health and welfare of American citizens, is to contact our Senators and Representatives and register our opposition to such regulations.

If you are eligible to vote, please take a moment to sign the attached petition. We must have your name, town, and zip code. Your mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers are optional. We will send copies of the petition to all Senators and appropriate Representatives in Congress.

Whose Petition Is This? This petition is sponsored by a loose confederation of people who have banded together against mandatory animal identification schemes. There is no one organization, and each of us can have a role. If you are interested in organizing in your state, and would like to be referred to others in your state, or you have questions about NAIS or this petition, contact Karin Bergener, Attorney-at-Law, PO Box 749, Ravenna, Ohio 44266; phone 330-298-0065; email bergener@config.com.

Karin Bergener is an attorney living and practicing in northeast Ohio. She raises poultry for the love of it, for the eggs, and to show them, especially her Khaki Campbells and Muscovies. She also has a horse for pleasure riding and driving.

Petition to Stop the National Animal Identification System

We, the undersigned, vigorously oppose proposed all Federal legislation (including current Federal HR 1256 and HR 1254, and HR 3170 along with similar Senate bills) and similar State legislation, and any Federal or State programs instituted without regard to legislation, that would require identification and tracking of all livestock, particularly poultry, waterfowl, and horses, and other animals not part of the mainstream food industry. The proposed regulations under the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) are highly flawed and will do nothing to protect the health and welfare of American citizens. Instead, the NAIS and legislation supporting it will impose unbearable economic hardship and record-keeping requirements on small farmers, backyard flock owners, individuals raising/participating in the exhibition poultry fancy, amateur horse enthusiasts, and sustainable farmers, and unreasonably increase the cost of food in this country. We request that the NAIS and all programs like it be stopped immediately.

Fields Marked with * are mandatory, making it possible to ensure we don't have duplicates, the signers are real people, and we can sort them by legislative district. Petition signers must be eligible to vote. Example of how to sign this petition:

<i>KARIN BERGENER</i>	<i>Karin Bergener</i>	<i>8034 LIMERIDGE RD</i>	<i>RAVENNA, OH 44266</i>	<i>bergener@config.com</i>
printed name*	signature*	address	town/state/zip*	email/phone

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Make as many copies of this page as you need. Please number the signature pages before mailing them back.

This is page ____ of ____ (how many total)

Please return all signed petitions to: Karin Bergener, Attorney-at-Law, PO Box 749, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Questions? Phone: 330-298-0065, Email: bergener@config.com