

# Take Action To Protect Our Rights and Our Food Supply Now!

The House Committee on Agriculture has included a section in the Farm Bill that pose a threat to our rights, and our food supply. The proposed language would link the National Animal ID System (NAIS) to Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). This is BAD for both farmers and consumers!

COOL can be implemented by simply requiring that all imports of live animals or food be identified with a country of origin marking, and that information provided to the consumer! Requiring U.S. livestock owners to identify and track all of their animals is *not* necessary.

If the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is made mandatory, anyone who owns even one horse, chicken, cow, pig, sheep, goat, or any other livestock or exotic, will have to:

- Register their premises with the state and federal government;
- Identify each animal, in most cases, with electronic identification;
- Report “events” to a government-accessible database within 24 hours, including every dead or missing animal, private sales, and regional shows.

NAIS is far more expensive, time-consuming, and intrusive than what is needed for COOL.

## **NAIS will:**

- violate individuals’ Constitutional rights, including freedom of religion and right to privacy;
- reduce the availability of local, organic, and grass-fed foods;
- interfere with the enjoyment of our horses, and other pets;
- raise the cost of food, because tagging and tracking costs will be passed on to consumers;
- create a massive government bureaucracy.

## **NAIS will NOT:**

- make food safer, since most food-borne illnesses, such as e coli and salmonella, are due to food processing and handling practices, not live animals;
- protect us against bioterrorism. The proposed microchips and radio tags are easily reprogrammed. Large databases are easy targets for terrorists or other criminals.

The purpose of COOL is to provide information so that consumers can choose whether to buy domestic or foreign products. NAIS will harm American farmers and ranchers, directly contrary to the goal of COOL.

**Congress needs to hear from you NOW! Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or go to <http://www.house.gov>. Please call, fax, or email all of the Members listed on the back of this flyer.**

**The Message:** Please strip Section 121 from the draft Farm Bill. The law barring the USDA from using mandatory animal identification to implement COOL should not be changed, and NAIS should not be put into the Farm Bill.

**For more information, go to: [www.libertyark.net](http://www.libertyark.net)**

## Please contact all of the following people:

- 1.) The Honorable Collin C. Peterson, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2171, Fax: 202-225-8510  
Email: [agriculture@mail.house.gov](mailto:agriculture@mail.house.gov)
- 2.) Senator Harkin, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
Room SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20510-6000  
Phone: 202-224-2035
- 3.) Your Congressman and Senator, [www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm), and [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep). Or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

## Sample letter or email – Personalize for the greatest effect!

Subject: Keep NAIS out of the Farm Bill.

Dear Chairman Peterson and Members of the Committee:

I ask that you strip Section 121 from the draft Farm Bill. Section 121 would allow the USDA to use mandatory animal identification to implement Country of Origin Labeling, and I strongly oppose any version of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (farmer, consumer, ... Tell them a little about yourself). The law barring the USDA from using mandatory animal identification to implement Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) should not be changed, and the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) should not be added to the Farm Bill. COOL can be implemented by requiring all imported livestock to be identified with a country of origin marking, and providing that information to the consumer. Requiring U.S. cattle producers to individually identify and track domestic livestock is not necessary. Mandatory animal identification will impose heavy burdens on American farmers and ranchers, in both time and money. NAIS will drive independent ranches and farms in America out of business. Mandatory animal identification will harm all Americans' rights, and our economy, canceling out the benefits of COOL.

Sincerely, ....

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE** – Members are listed in order of their states (alphabetically). **Please contact any members who come from your state.** If you want to use email, go to: <http://www.house.gov/>.

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