

Government-mandated microchipping of animals? 4-H kids, farmers, and horse owners reporting their movements? Local food sources driven out of business?

If the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is made mandatory, you will have to:

Register your premises. Every person who owns or manages a location where even one horse, chicken, cow, pig, goat, sheep, elk, bison or any other livestock or poultry, are handled will have to register in a government database, or a private database that the government can access. It does not matter whether the animal is raised for food or as a pet.

Identify your animals. Animals will be assigned a unique 15-digit number when they are moved from their herd of origin or are commingled with other animals. Each animal will need to be microchipped or radio tagged in most cases, or otherwise physically tagged. While the agencies claim that poultry and swine will get “group numbers,” most small farmers and pet owners do not keep animals in ways that would qualify.

Track your animals. The owner must **REPORT, WITHIN 24 HOURS**, every time an animal is tagged, or a tag is lost; every death or slaughter; every missing animal; and “commingling” events, including public and private sales, regional shows, and exhibitions.

While the USDA has announced that the program is voluntary at the federal level, it is continuing to provide grants to the States to implement NAIS. The USDA’s stated goal is to have **100% participation** by 2009, and States must reach specific goals to get the federal money. Even so-called voluntary State programs often use coercive means to force people into the program. Ultimately, the USDA intends to **require every person who owns animals** to comply with this burdensome program, acting indirectly through State programs.

NAIS will drive many small farms and ranches out of business, burden people who raise animals for food for themselves or for companionship, invade Americans’ privacy, and deprive us of our property rights, violate the religious freedom of Americans whose beliefs make it impossible for them to comply, and burden **every** person with increased costs of meat, and a large government bureaucracy.

TAKE ACTION

- Contact your state legislators, asking them to halt (or not start in the first place) the implementation of NAIS in your state;
- Contact your federal legislators, asking them to stop funding for NAIS and limit the USDA’s authority;
- Go to www.libertyark.net, or call 1.866.687.6452 for more information on what you can do!