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## **NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS) REPORT TO THE BOARD**

June 2009

I have not had any inquiries from our membership about NAIS since the last Board meeting. There have been a number of states that have passed legislation, or have legislation pending, that would limit NAIS to a voluntary, non-coercive program, and remove the state's authority to make NAIS mandatory.

Federally, the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill which passed the House earlier this year includes \$14.5 million of funding for NAIS, which is significantly less than the amount requested by the USDA for FY2009. Rep. David Obey (D-WI) included a statement in the record about the intended uses of the appropriations for USDA, including timelines and performance goals for NAIS. This statement does not mandate NAIS, but it implies approval of the USDA's Business Plan, which includes using existing disease control programs to implement NAIS and achieve those performance goals.

I have listed two statements by Judith McGeary, Executive Director of the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, Austin, Texas and where to find them. The first one is testimony she gave to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, on March 10, 2009.

[http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/files/Testimony\\_Animal\\_ID\\_FARFA.pdf](http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/files/Testimony_Animal_ID_FARFA.pdf)

The other is a statement she delivered to the roundtable convened by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack in Washington, DC on April 15, 2009. Twenty-nine organizations were invited to this roundtable to present their views on the NAIS.

<http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/files/Mtg-Vilsack-written-submission.pdf>

Both of these statements are clearly anti-NAIS, but provide a synopsis of what the program is and what the USDA hopes to accomplish with it, detailed reasons why the program is flawed, and why it will not accomplish what the USDA claims it will.

A joint public hearing to review NAIS was scheduled for May 5, 2009 in the U.S. House of Representatives between the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, and the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science. As of the writing of this report, no information was available on the results, if any, of this public hearing.

I will continue to monitor NAIS, make information available to our membership, and answer any inquiries which I may receive.

Ray Hoyt, President