



National Pygmy Goat Association
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NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS) REPORT TO THE BOARD January 2009

Introduction

First, I have just completed a three-year term as a member of the Health, Education and Research Committee, and therefore must rotate off per the Rules and Regulations. At the January 2006 Board meeting, the Board determined that NPGA's monitoring of NAIS should reside within our HER Committee; Chair Kay Orlando thereupon appointed me to the committee to continue following the activities of NAIS. The Board now needs to decide if the monitoring of NAIS should remain with HER or be reassigned elsewhere, and to whom that responsibility should belong.

July 2008 Update

I prepared an update on NAIS which is posted on NPGA's website. It contains information on the following:

- Completion of the State Survey and its publication in the 2008 Membership Roster
- Illinois' position on premise ID changed
- Colorado's position on premise ID changed for 4H/FFA members who show "market animals" at the state fair
- R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America) membership overwhelmingly approved a policy to oppose NAIS
- FTCLDF (Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund) sued USDA and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to stop implementation of NAIS at the state and federal levels
- Another lawsuit to require federal government to allow access to its premise ID records; the complaint alleges that the government is registering premises without the knowledge or consent of the premise owners.
- Move by U.S. House of Representatives to require USDA to purchase meat products for the School Lunch Program from livestock premises registered with NAIS beginning in July 2009

Information on USDA Website

1. Article describing a one day event in Wisconsin where animal electronic ID demonstrations were held. Ten companies provided demonstrations of their products. The article claims that Wisconsin is first in the nation in both numbers of premises registered and in the percentage of compliance. Premise identification is mandatory in Wisconsin.
2. April 2008 report on an interview of Neil Hammerschmidt, NAIS Coordinator for the USDA.

FTCLDF

Regarding the lawsuit by FTCLDF mentioned above, both the USDA and the Michigan Department of Agriculture have filed motions to dismiss the lawsuit. FTCLDF plans to file its response to those motions in January 2009.

FTCLDF has discovered that USDA has issued a memo addressed to USDA's "Veterinary Services Management Team" which requires NAIS premises registration for various disease program activities.

The memo states that people who refuse to have their farms registered will be registered against their will. So much for "voluntary" registration. The disease programs for which mandatory premises registration is now required include: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Pseudorabies, Scrapie, Chronic Wasting Disease, Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza of the H5/H7 strains, Equine Infectious Anemia, Texas fever in cattle, Scabies in cattle, Exotic Newcastle Disease and Chlamydiosis, and Poultry and Swine health. Activities resulting in being registered include: Vaccinations, Diagnostic tests, Certifications (other than certificates of veterinary inspection), and application of official eartags or backtags. The USDA memo applies to federal animal health authorities, state animal health authorities, and private veterinarians who are accredited for federally regulated diseases.

More information from the Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund can be seen on their website at: <http://www.ftclfd.org>.

Ray Hoyt
NAIS Coordinator

NOTE: This report was submitted to HER Chair Kay Orlando who provided the following response:

Hi Ray,
You have really done a good job with NAIS. And I would think the Board would want you to continue on. It would not be easy for someone else to take over and do such a thorough job. The report looks great.
Kay