



MYTH: NAIS is a conspiracy by government to control my business and use my personal information for other purposes.

FACT: NAIS is trying to protect producers and hobby farmers and keep their animals disease-free. USDA has no interest in knowing where animals are all of the time, nor does the system allow for real-time tracking. Data concerning animal movements and locations will be held in multiple, secure databases managed by private organizations and state animal health authorities.

MYTH: If I register my premises, the government will know how many animals I sell.

FACT: The premises registration form does not ask how many animals you have. Officials only want to know what species of animal you have. Remember, information provided is confidential according to Nebraska law (LB 856) effective July 2006. Only federal and state animal health and public health officials may access the data in the event of an animal disease outbreak or a public safety emergency. Other governmental agencies such as the IRS, EPA, or Nebraska DEQ will not have access to the data.

MYTH: Farmers/Producers will be fined if we don't register our premises.

FACT: NAIS is a voluntary program at the federal level. While some states are making registration mandatory, Nebraska's program is voluntary and will not distribute fines.

MYTH: This premises registration and identification program was created to benefit the large producer.

FACT: Animal diseases can affect producers of all sizes. NAIS will allow animal health officials to quickly access information that is accurate and necessary to respond to disease situations. With the ability to know

rapidly where animals are and which animals have moved recently, animal health officials can take the best actions possible to stop a disease's spread and alert producers—small and large—of what they can do to protect their animals.

MYTH: The government wants to identify every animal including pets in the United States.

FACT: NAIS is focused on the safety of our nation's livestock and/or poultry. Household pets are not included in this registration.

MYTH: USDA will use the NAIS to provide real-time spying on my livestock.

FACT: NAIS is not a real-time tracking system. Animal movement information will be stored by private, secure databases not managed by the government. The information on your livestock can only be accessed if there is an event of animal disease.

MYTH: These restrictions are so tough that it will eliminate small farms.

FACT: USDA believes strongly that small farms have an integral role in our country's system of agriculture. USDA fully recognizes that NAIS must be practical and affordable for all sectors of agriculture. This continues to be a priority as USDA works with state officials and producers to develop the system in greater detail.

MYTH: I must register my animals even if they never leave the farm.

FACT: If your animals never leave the farm of birth or are only moved for custom slaughter for personal consumption, you will not be asked to identify them or report their movement.

MYTH: Animals raised for my own use (i.e., consumption) need to participate in NAIS.

FACT: If your animals never leave the farm of birth or are only moved for custom slaughter for personal consumption, you will not be asked under the federal guidelines to identify them or report their movement. USDA encourages all owners of animals covered by NAIS to register their premises, regardless of the number of animals present, because many animal diseases (such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, and vesicular stomatitis) can be spread whether an animal leaves its home premises or not.

MYTH: Horses aren't made into food, so they don't need to be included in premises registration.

FACT: While they aren't consumed, horses still can catch and spread diseases.

MYTH: Every time I ride my horse on a trail I have to register that information.

FACT: No. Recording all animal movements would not be practical, nor is that the intention of NAIS. Reportable movements under the NAIS would include movements with a high potential for spreading disease (i.e., movements where animals commingle with other animals). By recording the movement of animals as they come in contact with other animals, animal health officials will be able to quickly identify exposed animals and stop the spread of disease.

MYTH: This program is established and the public can no longer make comments regarding NAIS.

FACT: NAIS continues to evolve this program and meet with producers, as their input is critical. Comments regarding NAIS can be sent to the USDA via animalidcomments@aphis.usda.gov.