

Get Ready! Here comes yet another massive government program! This one is a lalapalooza! It will protect you and all your neighbors and every farm animal in the whole country--right down to the chickens--from getting a disease! And it will only cost you your privacy, your freedom of movement, your time to report everywhere your horses go, when they are sold or they die, and, maybe, a little money.

But, wait! It is “Voluntary!” Doesn't that make it sound much better? We can all relax and believe what the supporters of this dandy new system are telling us, can't we? Why would we be suspicious of the largest producers of beef and pork and ID chip makers? Hmmm...let me count the ways! (\$\$\$\$ for starters)

I am writing to inform you of the National Animal Identification System—NAIS—of the progress that has been made towards its implementation, and to ask for your help in stopping it in Idaho.

What is NAIS? The United States States Department of Agriculture is planning a three stage process to accomplish the goal of being able to “trace back” the source of any disease outbreak within 48 hours to the farm and the animal that first introduced it. They will then have the authority to “depopulate” (kill off--for us folks from Rio Lindo) any and all animals on that farm or on any surrounding farms for as far as they think it necessary and as long as they think necessary to eradicate the disease. Does this bring to mind images of piles of burning cow carcasses in England a few years ago? It should. Far fetched? What Idaho did to Rex Rammell is mild compared to this—read for yourselves how the state of Virginia came at 5 a.m.--with no warning—and arrested the rancher, took him from the farm, and then shot his livestock over a 10 day seige, and worse!!! all because an agent accused his pigs of having pseudorabies. But he was never given warning, never shown the proof, and not allowed to prove them wrong. All he could do was watch his animals being hauled away with their blood dripping from the trailers and his livelihood be ruined. Here's the link: <http://thepowerhour.com/news2/WHO.htm>.

What is the three step process—and how far has Idaho gone in it? The

That word, however, turns out to be a slippery one on a slippery slope.