

# SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM LISTENING SESSIONS

## Agenda

USDA APHIS is planning a series of listening sessions in strategic locations across the country to ask stakeholders for their solutions to overcome existing and new obstacles to implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). APHIS seeks to gather not only producer comments and concerns, but also potential or feasible solutions to create a program producers can feel comfortable supporting. The listening sessions will include information about the current program, as well as an opportunity to give public testimony or ask program-related questions. Discussion sessions related to NAIS' cost, impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality, liability premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing will allow producers to provide their input on ways to make the program into something they can support.

### **Registration: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.**

All attendees will be asked to sign-in and will be given information on making comments and participation in the PM break-out sessions.

### **Part I: Explain Current Program – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Welcome from USDA and APHIS  
Overview of NAIS as it exists now  
General Overview of Day's Agenda

### **Part II: Comments and Questions on NAIS – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Attendees have up to 3 minutes to ask a question on the presentation or about NAIS as it exists currently OR to make a comment for the record. Comments can also be submitted at any time in writing or via the APHIS website. People will be called on via a lottery system to speak until the time allotted expires. If all speakers are accommodated before 12 noon, we will break early for lunch and may reconvene early in the afternoon. Please note: all comments and questions will be officially transcribed.

**Break for lunch—1 hour (approx 12-1 pm)** Lunch on your own

### **Part III: Break-Out Group Sessions: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Attendees will be randomly assigned to one of three break-out groups. These groups will engage in facilitated discussions about solutions/ideas to issues as outlined in the Federal Register notice. These discussions will be less about concerns and more about ideas and solutions to create a NAIS that we can all live with. Ideas will be captured and forwarded to APHIS for consideration. Each group will move through all seven questions from the Federal Register Notice so there will be roughly 20 minutes per question. Please note: facilitated discussions will be officially transcribed. Sessions will close with information about submitting comments and keeping updated on the NAIS public dialogue.

Please check the website: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) for updates and more information about the NAIS public dialogue. Reports from the listening sessions will be posted on the website in the future. Thank you for your participation.

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May 1, Federal Register Notice Questions

- **Cost.** What are your concerns about the cost of the NAIS? What steps would you suggest APHIS use to address cost?
- **Impact on small farmers.** What are your concerns about the effect of the NAIS on small farmers? What approaches would you suggest APHIS take to address the potential impact on small farmers?
- **Privacy and confidentiality.** What are your concerns regarding how the NAIS will affect your operation's privacy and/or the confidentiality of your operation? What steps or tactics would you suggest APHIS use to address privacy and confidentiality issues?
- **Liability.** What are your concerns about your operation's liability under the NAIS? What would you suggest APHIS consider to address liability concerns?
- **Premises registration.** Do you have any suggestions on how to make premises registration, or the identification of farm or ranch locations, easier for stakeholders? How should we address your concerns regarding premises registration?
- **Animal identification.** Do you have any suggestions on how to make animal identification practical and useful to stakeholders while simultaneously meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?
- **Animal tracing.** Do you have any suggestions on how to make the animal tracing component practical, in particular the reporting of animal movements to other premises, while meeting the needs of animal health officials who must conduct disease tracebacks?