

# **NAIS--Tactics Used by USDA** **and State Departments of Agriculture**

## **USDA NAIS Handbook Says Treat Farmers at “Sixth Grade Level”**

The USDA’s confidential “NAIS How-To Handbook,” on p.41 says “Messages [for farmers]...are designed for an audience reading at the sixth grade level.” It tells Federal and State NAIS personnel to implement NAIS in the face of farmer opposition by controlling communications, manipulating media coverage, concealing the original NAIS program documents, and discrediting opponents. (See full article by Mary Zanoni, Ph.D., J.D., on [www.vicfa.net](http://www.vicfa.net), or see contact information below).

## **NAIS NOT NEEDED FOR EXPORT**

**Many large producers have been led to believe that they need NAIS to export or sell to specific breeders.** This is untrue. The USDA’s Export Verification Program provides this service, and it has for years. CattleNetwork.com—a large producer information website (in an article of April 9, 2007) states, “It is important to understand that source and age verification is **not** part of the National Animal Identification System.”

## **4-H USED TO REGISTER PREMISES**

**States use 4-H and FFA members to sign up premises. Following are two examples.**

- Colorado requires 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors to have premises identification numbers for the 2007 State Fair and the 2007-08 4-H enrollment year.
- Oklahoma is *paying* individual 4-H members for each premises registration they turn in. Children are registering premises *without their parents’ knowledge at the encouragement of state officials.*

## **TAXPAYERS FORCED TO PAY FOR NAIS PROMOTIONS**

VDACS will receive about \$500,000 in taxpayer money in 2007 to implement NAIS in Virginia. This includes \$220,000 for three VA Tech professors and an extension agent to research using RFID technology at livestock markets. The remaining \$270,000 is used for advertising in magazines, and other publications; booths at livestock events and fairs—like the VA Beef Expo; recruiting “industry leaders” to be spokesmen for NAIS; and much more. (See the “Cooperative Agreements” and

For more information on NAIS and agriculture in Virginia, please contact the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association:

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