

KCA asks Ag Groups to Band Together Against Mandatory NAIS in Kansas

With USDA agreeing to discard its policy on animal disease traceability and the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), Kansas Cattlemen's Association contacted several other Kansas animal agriculture groups and asked them to support state legislation that would oppose mandatory NAIS.

Kansas Cattlemen's Association, through its membership policy, supports disease control and participation in a workable disease program. However, in the past several years, USDA has promoted a cost prohibitive and ineffective NAIS that producers have adamantly opposed. With USDA shifting its focus to providing workable guidelines and allowing individual states to establish disease programs, KCA took the lead to encourage support for state legislation that would oppose mandatory NAIS.

KCA contacted Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Farmers Union, Kansas Farm Bureau, and Kansas Rural Center asking for support as KCA addresses the Kansas legislature to encourage state law makers to pass legislation making mandatory NAIS illegal. KCA looks forward to each group's response and working as a coalition to advocating for the interest of Kansas producers.

KCA will also be involved in promoting a workable state disease control program. "Since USDA will provide guidelines, but ultimately states will be responsible for their own disease programs, we, as agriculture organizations, should work together to offer the best solutions that protect from diseases that are detrimental to producers and our economy," stated KCA Executive Director Brandy Carter. "The Kansas Animal Health Department and the Kansas Department of Agriculture already have procedures in place to help control diseases. By using programs that provide disease testing and more oversight of foreign cattle entering the state, we believe that Kansas can have a very effective and economical disease program in place."