

From Expediency to Delay: The Bush Administration & Animal ID

2003

- “USDA has worked with partners at the federal and state levels and in industry for the past year and a half on the adoption of standards for a verifiable nationwide animal identification system to help enhance the speed and accuracy of our response to disease outbreaks across many different animal species.” (*Veneman Announces Additional Protection Measures To Guard Against BSE*, News Release No. 0449.03, December 30, 2003)

2004

- "Significant work to develop such a system has already been accomplished. Over the past 18 months, USDA has worked with the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, and state and industry groups, to identify national standards for an animal identification system that will enhance the speed and accuracy of our response to animal disease outbreaks. I have asked USDA's Chief Information Officer to make it a top priority to develop the technology architecture necessary to implement an effective and verifiable system throughout the country." (*Transcript of Remarks by Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman Before the House Agriculture Committee January 21, 2004*)
- “While many livestock species in the United States can be identified through a variety of systems, a verifiable system of national animal identification will enhance our efforts to respond to intentionally or unintentionally introduced animal disease outbreaks more quickly and effectively.” (*Veneman Announces Framework and Funding for National Animal Identification System News Release No. 0170.04, April 27, 2004*)
- Bill Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs stated that “the Animal Health Protection Act gives us broad authority to take measures that will address animal health issues and with-- a very easy read of that is we do have the authority to address the animal ID system in a mandatory fashion if we so chose.” (*Transcript of remarks by Bill Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at a press briefing regarding the Animal I.D. Plan News Release No. 0171.04, April 27, 2004*)
- **USDA transferred \$18.8 million from its Commodity Credit Corporation to APHIS in FY 2004 to support the program.** (*USDA Unveils Multi-Year Draft Strategic Plan for The National Animal Identification System, News Release No. 0149.05, May 5, 2005*)

2005

- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns unveiled a thinking paper and timeline on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). These documents propose requiring stakeholders to identify premises and animals according to NAIS standards by January 2008. Requiring full recording of defined animal movements is proposed by January 2009. (*USDA Unveils Multi-Year Draft Strategic Plan for The National Animal Identification System, News Release No. 0149.05, May 5, 2005*)
- **FY 2005 Congress appropriated \$33,197,000 for development of a National Animal Identification System (PL 108-447).**

2006

- At an R-CALF meeting Neil Hammerchmidt, NAIS coordinator at APHIS stated there wouldn't be a mandatory animal identification program by 2009. He also stated that “today there is no one working on rules to implement a mandatory program” and that it would take at least two years of rulemaking, including public comment, for USDA to have one in place. (*Food Chemical News*, Volume 47, Number 52, February 6, 2006)
- **FY 2006 Congress appropriated \$33,340,000 for development of a National Animal Identification System (PL 109-97).**