

Declaration of Dr. Melvin Massey, DVM

I, Dr. Melvin Tomas Massey, certify and state as follows:

1. My name is Dr. Melvin Massey, and I live in Brownsboro, Texas, 75756. I am over eighteen years of age and am fully competent to make this declaration.
2. I graduated from Texas A&M Vet school in 1964. I had a large animal veterinary practice in Mount Vernon and Tyler, Texas, followed by an equine practice in Houston Texas. I served as the Veterinarian for the Washington Racing Commission, was involved in the AHSA Drug Testing Program, taught Veterinary Technology at Fort Steilacoom Community College and taught Equine Management at Green River Community College in Washington State. I now live in Texas and raise horses and goats. My curriculum vitae is attached.
3. I have reviewed the USDA's documents on NAIS.
4. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 5 and 6, and based on my background, training, education and experience as a veterinarian, and to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, it is my expert opinion that NAIS is not rationally related to addressing animal diseases and will actually be counter-productive.
5. In my expert opinion, implanting microchips in horses can potentially cause serious health problems. I have reviewed studies on the incidence of tumors associated with microchips, as well as the materials at <http://www.invisio.nl/antichip/>. The studies indicate that implanting microchips in animals can lead to an increased risk of sarcoids. Implanting microchips also creates a risk of infections, as well as side effects from the migration of the chips. Countries in Europe, such as Germany, Spain, and Ireland, are either halting microchipping or studying the potential health problems. Requiring microchipping as part of an alleged disease control program, as in NAIS, is counterproductive.
6. In my expert opinion, the electronic tagging and tracking provisions of the NAIS will not be effective in addressing BSE or "Mad Cow Disease." The key issues with BSE are prevention and detection. With respect to detection, USDA's program includes loopholes that allow some processors to avoid testing animals. The USDA also tests a very low percentage of cattle. With respect to prevention, the FDA's feed ban also contains loopholes and there is little enforcement. Electronically tagging and tracking animals will not solve or even partially address these critical problems. Tagging and tracking every cow also will not provide protection against the animal contracting BSE nor against BSE entering the food chain.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Brownsboro, Texas on May 4, 2008.


Dr. Melvin Massey, DVM