



# Family Farm Defenders

P.O. Box 1772, Madison, WI 53701 tel./fax. 608-260-0900

[www.familyfarmdefenders.org](http://www.familyfarmdefenders.org)

June 21, 2007

## Re: New Organization Opposing Wisconsin Mandatory Premises ID

Dear Friend:

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed your concern about the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's program to force you as an animal owner to "register" your property and be assigned a United States Department of Agriculture "premises identification number" for your farm.

This system is part of a proposed nationwide system called the "National Animal Identification System," or "NAIS." The US Dept. of Agriculture has drafted a Strategic Plan that defines a three-phase program for uniform NAIS:

- First, premises ID of every home/farm keeping even one livestock animal;
- Second, individual animal ID (RFID or microchipping for many/most species); and
- Third, animal tracking (reporting of all animal movements/changes in status).

The USDA says that the federal program is "voluntary." But USDA is using state departments of agriculture like Wisconsin's to impose the program through state rules like the one Wisconsin has announced requiring all dairy farmers to register as a condition of obtaining license renewals or starting new dairy operations. Indeed, in Wisconsin, even non-commercial livestock owners are presently required to register, and can be fined for failure to do so. Also, USDA is promoting a system in which nearly everyone is forced to "volunteer" because premises ID or animal ID will be required by sale barns, livestock shows, 4-H and FFA events.

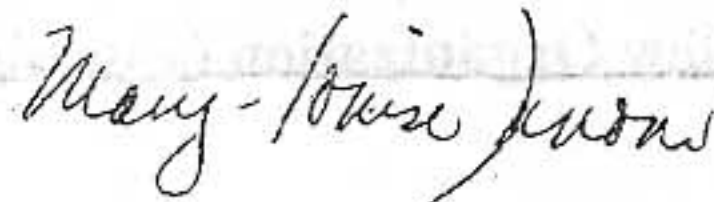
We are forming a non-profit organization, Free Wisconsin Pastures, to address this government intrusion. Its purpose is to fight Wisconsin's attempts to force the registration of farms and livestock against farmers' devout religious and personal beliefs. It will accomplish this purpose by research, education, communication and, if necessary, respectful legal action to ensure that Wisconsin respects the deeply held religious and personal beliefs of its traditional religious communities and citizens against government bureaucratization of the faith and community-based customs and practices of farming life.

We are asking concerned citizens to show their support by returning the form enclosed with this letter to our friends at Family Farm Defenders, P.O. Box 1772, Madison, WI 53701. You may ask to be placed on the membership roster, or you may simply ask to receive information about Free Wisconsin Pastures and its activities. We are also available to speak to community groups about this issue. Please feel free to pass this letter on to friends and neighbors and encourage them to join our efforts. Thank you very much for your consideration.

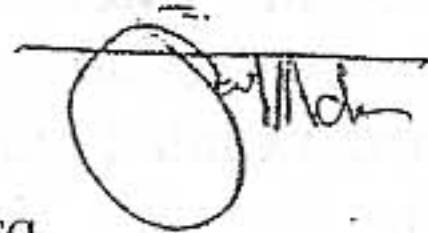
Sincerely



John Kinsman, President  
Family Farm Defenders



Mary-Louise Zanoni, Esq.  
Free Wisconsin Pastures



Steven H. Aden, Esq.  
Center for Law & Religious Freedom

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I agree with and support the purposes of Free Wisconsin Pastures. Please accept my application for membership and keep me informed about its activities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send me information about Free Wisconsin Pastures and the mandatory premises ID/registration system.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_