



American Horse Council Washington Update

FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

Two bills have been introduced this Congress dealing with Animal ID. The Livestock Identification and Marketing Opportunities Act calls for the establishment of a national identification system for livestock (that does not include horses). The other bill prohibits the institution of a mandatory animal identification system.

Livestock Identification and Marketing Opportunities (LIMO) Act (H.R. 2301)

Representative Steve King (R-IA) introduced The Livestock Identification and Marketing Opportunities (LIMO) Act (H.R. 2301) in May 2007. H.R. 2301 is identical to a bill introduced by Representative King in the 109th Congress.

The bill calls for the implementation of such a national livestock identification system by 2009.

Participation in the system called for by this bill would be mandatory for “livestock,” which is defined to mean “cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry,” but does not include horses. Nonetheless, owners/producers of other livestock, such as horses, could participate in the system, but it would be voluntary.

Prohibition on Mandatory Animal Identification Program (H.R. 1018)

Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) has introduced legislation that would amend the Animal Health Protection Act to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing a National Animal Identification System, or using federal funds to implement a system, that mandates participation of livestock owners. It would also require the Secretary to protect any information received in a voluntary system and to limit its release to officials who might need it to protect human and animal health.

Representative Emerson also introduced an identical bill in the previous Congress.