

Illinois Milk Producers' Association

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0974 '02 JAN -2 P1:36

November 21, 2001

In reference to: 01N-0423

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

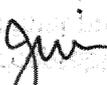
The Illinois Milk Producers' Association would like to offer some comments regarding the current regulations regarding the mammalian feed ban. We are not responding to the each of the 17 questions, but rather offering some general comments.

We do have many producers who routinely feed high-quality animal protein to their dairy cows. They are aware of the ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban and work to ensure they are only feeding acceptable protein to their dairy cattle. Our concern lies in the possibility that FDA may ban all animal protein feeding completely. We do not feel that this action would be substantiated by the research that has been done in this area. Sound science supports the continuation of the current exemptions to the mammalian protein ban, which would still provide dairy producers an avenue in which to feed high-quality protein to their cow herds.

Our other concern lies in the fact that should a total ban on the practice of feeding animal protein be implemented, it would severely disrupt the nation's rendering industry. This service is integral to the operation of our state's dairies, and we are already having a difficult time disposing of dead animals in a timely manner. Enacting such a ban would place a severe restriction on our industry.

Again, we support the current regulations and urge that the FDA use prudent judgment that is based upon sound science in which to consider any changes.

Best regards,


Jim Fraley
Manager

"Representing Illinois Dairy Producers Since 1933"

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