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**U.S. Poultry & Egg
Association**

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Division of Documents Management
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Extension of Comment Period
Docket No. 2004N-0264
Federal Measures to Mitigate BSE Risks: Consideration for
Further Action

Dear Sir or Madam:

We request a 60-day extension of the comment period for the referenced rule. We make this request so that we can supply reasonable, fact-based responses to several of the questions posed by FDA in the ANPR. Specific questions requiring more time than the current 30-day comment period are as follows:

1. Question 7 regarding the economic/environmental impact of an SRM ban.

Poultry operators consume substantial quantities of Meat and Bone Meal (MBM); and are therefore potentially subject to substantially higher feed costs in the event of an SRM ban. We are currently polling the various poultry species (turkey, broiler, egg) to determine current MBM usage, and consulting with feed specialists/nutritionists to determine plausible pricing impacts and available alternates. Thirty days is simply an inadequate time period to complete this task.

2. Questions 17 and 18 request information on the need of a poultry litter ban if an SRM ban is put in place, and the environmental and economic impact of a litter ban.

Given that there are in excess of 40,000 poultry producers that a litter feeding ban could potentially impact, thirty days is simply an inadequate time period to collect the necessary information.

We appreciate your consideration of our request, and believe providing an extension will provide fact-based information to FDA for decision-making.

Sincerely,

DON DALTON
President
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DD/eh

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