

Canadian Renderers Association Incorporated

Affiliated with The National Renderers Association

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Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: **Docket No. 02N-0273 –
Substances Prohibited From Use in Animal Food or Feed;
Animal Proteins Prohibited in Ruminant Feed;
Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**

The Canadian Renderers Association (CRA) represents the diverse interests of the rendering industry in Canada, and, as such, takes the opportunity to comment on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR), and the agency's solicitation of information and comments. This is especially important to CRA, because both the United States and Canada trade using the principles of equivalency prefaced by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and regulatory changes in one country will obviously influence the other. But, equally important, our countries share a common objective to "prevent the establishment and amplification of the agent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)" in North America through feed and "thereby minimize any risks from such agent to animal or human health."

The agency identified the five issues of special pertinence to the ANPR:

1. Excluding Brain and Spinal Cord From Rendered Animal Products
2. Use of Poultry Litter in Cattle Feed
3. Use of Pet Food in Ruminant Feed
4. Preventing Cross Contamination
5. Eliminating the Plate Waste Exemption

CRA has and continues to support the current scientifically based animal feeding regulations that restrict the use of certain animal proteins derived from mammalian tissues (with the current exemptions) for use in ruminant feed. But, a careful analysis of the facts suggests that no regulatory changes are warranted at this time. The following reasons amplify our recommendations:

1. FDA in 1997 adopted the current feed restrictions based on a review of industry practices and sound science. CRA is of the opinion that the existing animal feed

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regulations are appropriate given the miniscule level of potential risk for an outbreak of BSE.

2. FDA's inspection oversight of the BSE feed rule (21 CFR 589.2000) indicates a 99.2 percent compliance rate. This is likely the best conformance finding for compliance in the agency's history.
3. The U.S. BSE prevention strategy has been developed to include multiple programs commonly described as a "triple firewall" approach with the major goals of (a) a ban on the importation of cattle and beef products from countries with BSE; (b) a statistically sound program to monitor for the presence of the disease heightening risk-based epidemiology; and (c) ruminant feeding restrictions, the core of the feed rule.
4. Prior to the Harvard University Center for Risk Analysis findings that the "U.S. is highly resistant to an introduction of BSE or a similar disease," the agency's own internal risk assessments audits done as early as 1999, paralleled the findings of the Harvard scientists.
5. CRA believes that in the absence of any change in the risk factors for a disease outbreak, and the rigorous enforcement of the current rule (including the excellent compliance) will result in a far greater reduction of risk than any or all of the proposed changes in the ANPR.
6. Change or modification of a rule should be considered only when there is new validated science that will support a change.

CRA thanks the agency for the opportunity to submit these comments and the serious consideration of them based on the aforementioned reasons.

Yours truly,
CANADIAN RENDERERS ASSOCIATION



André Couture
President

AC/HDK/DF/dmc
Attachment