

FDA
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

2662 00 AUG 16 P2:53
August 4, 2000

Dear Sirs:

I have recently been made aware of an FDA ruling to allow the irradiation of eggs and other dairy products. This is particularly disturbing as many studies have indicated dramatic reduction in nutritional value of products processed in this manner, not to mention the possible long term effects of exposure and possible cancer causing effects to the human body.

The best method and solution to prevent salmonella from becoming a health problem is at the processing plant level. This may be achieved through proper sanitation and continued implementation of cleaning procedures established by the USDA and the industry. Modernization of both processing and packaging equipment can also simplify cleaning procedures and reduce handling issues associated with our food.

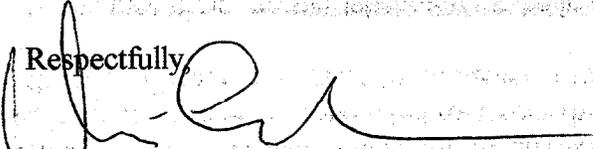
We are making decisions today that may effect the health of millions in years to come. Short-term action is not the answer, the USDA must insist that, additional studies be conducted to assure the safety of all processes including the use of irradiation, prior to implementation.

In the meantime, proper labeling must be implemented to protect consumers who want to know what they are consuming and purchasing. Labeling must clearly inform consumers of the possible health risks associated with the irradiation process. Proper labeling now, not later!

It would be very sad one day if the dairy industry had to experience the same financial penalties that the tobacco industry is presently under going. Short term profit oriented solutions are not always the best policy - for our government, business or our long term health.

Please be sensitive to the thoughts of the individual and the consumer on this important issue, we are counting on your agency to keep us safe, not only from salmonella and other short term health considerations, but also long term health risks, which can be even more devastating to us all.

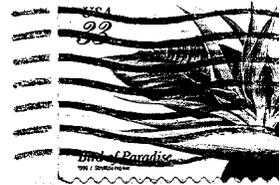
Respectfully,


Dennis Calamusa
Sarasota, Florida

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Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)

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