

33 Bent Tree Drive  
Centerville, MA  
02632  
August 13, 2000

2854 100 AUG 18 10:34

Docket No. 98F-0165  
Dockets Management Branch  
HFA-305  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA,

I am writing in regard to the proposal to allow irradiation of eggs and request that this recommendation be postponed until a public hearing is scheduled and has taken place.

Egg irradiation is problematic for a number of reasons, including facilitation of the horrible practices associated with factory farming of hens, and the negative effects upon the food itself, some of which are very detrimental to human health. Looked at overall, the only "benefits" accrue to the egg producer industry.

Irradiation would not be necessary, would not even have to be considered, if decent and humane farming practices were carried out. Instead, the unfortunate hens are crammed into cages where they can hardly move, and the cages are stacked up on one another so that excrement from the top drips down on those below. Waste is not cleaned up but accumulates in pits under the cages, producing extremely strong ammonia which further compromises the animals' immune systems. Other factors which combine to reduce the hens' immune systems are forced molting and artificial lighting. These birds are highly stressed and lead miserable lives totally at odds with what nature intended. One consequence of forcing hens to live in filth, crowding, and unnatural conditions with resultant suppressed immune systems is that salmonella, which normally just live in their guts, travels to their ovaries where eggs are produced and so enters the eggs while they are being formed.

All this could be avoided if the hens had access to the outdoors and sunshine, and were not crowded together in a filthy and debilitating environment.

Irradiation is further detrimental to human beings who consume such treated food products. It depletes nutrients unequivocally and also alters proteins in eggs with consequences for health that are unknown. What is known is that when lab animals are fed irradiated food, they develop serious health problems, including cancer and premature death. Dozens of studies have supported this conclusion, studies which were overseen, interestingly enough, by the same man who submitted this proposal on behalf of the egg industry.

The FDA's job is to protect the health of the American public, not the profits (and despicable practices) of corporations. This proposal should be postponed until a public hearing can be held, at which time it should be dismissed.

OB15  
Yours truly,  
*Patricia Panitz*  
Patricia Panitz

98F-0165



Patricia Panitz  
33 Bent Tree Dr.  
Centerville, MA 02632-3107



2009

Dockets Management Branch

HFA-305

Food + Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

Rockville, MD

20852

20857/0001

