

August 9, 2000

FDA Docket Clerk
FDA Dockets Management Branch
300 12th St. SW
Room 102
Cotton Annex
Washington DC 20250-3700

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FDA Docket Room
00 SEP 13 AM 6:54

RE: Docket No. 00N-0504
"Egg Safety From Production to Consumption"

Dear FDA,

The following are comments regarding the action plan for the elimination of Salmonella Enteritidis in eggs:

- 1) The primary cause of the infection has not been addressed. The primary cause is the forced molting of the laying hens. The molting not only leaves them susceptible to disease but is also inhumane treatment. The USDA acknowledged through their own studies that forced molting is a primary cause of Salmonella Enteritidis infection in fowl.
- 2) Eggs are inexpensive and can be produced cheaply. Consumers can afford to pay more for disease-free eggs produced by chickens which are treated humanely. A reduction in egg production is a small price to pay for safety.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,



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