



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

HFA-305

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

JAN 21 2000 3 43 9 '00 JAN 27 AIO 07

Mr. Harold Altman
268A E. Broadway
Apt. 1104A
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Altman:

This is in response to your letter dated July 24, 1999, addressed to the Inspector General, and forwarded to the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) concerning the use of recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) in dairy cows.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this issue. The use of drugs in livestock and poultry is strictly regulated. Before any drug intended for use in animals is approved, it must undergo extensive chemical and toxicological testing which must demonstrate that the food from these animals is safe for human consumption.

Bovine somatotropin (bST) was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1993. The recombinant, or genetically engineered form of bST (rbST) is virtually identical to a cow's natural somatotropin, a hormone produced in its own pituitary gland that stimulates milk production. Since bST is a protein-based hormone, rbST is broken down during digestion, which makes it biologically inactive and incapable of having any effect in humans or animals. Over 120 studies were reviewed by FDA scientists that examined the safety of milk and meat from dairy cows treated with rbST. They concluded that there was no increased health risk to consumers.

I am enclosing materials that provide further information concerning this matter. In addition, I am forwarding your letter to Dockets Management Branch for inclusion in Docket Number 98P-1194 -- Withdrawal of NADA Approval for Posilac -- rBGH. Please visit our Internet Home Page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Sincerely yours,

Karen A. Kandra
Consumer Safety Officer
Center for Veterinary Medicine

Enclosures
cc: S. Pierson

98P-1194

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98A1194

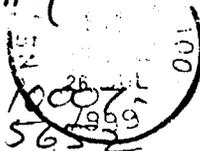
DEAR SIR:

JULY 24, 1999

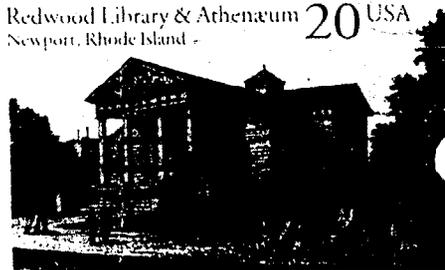
I RECENTLY READ THAT THERE IS A MASSIVE COVER-UP AND SUPPRESSION OF LAB REPORTS BY MONSANTO AND THE F.D.A. TO ALLOW THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE IN MILK.

CANADA HAS LEGALLY BANNED THE USE OF BGH BECAUSE OF THE CARCINOGENIC PROPERTIES. STUDENTS IN SCHOOL DRINK THIS MILK, AS WELL AS UNSUSPECTING ADULTS. CAN YOUR OFFICE TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION NECESSARY TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC? RESPECTFULLY,
Howell Quesada

HAROLD ALTMAN
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