

Date: December 28, 1999

To: Respected Sir/Madam

Docket Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

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Hello,

I read an article regarding Hens being starved and/or deprived of water in food industry for better production of eggs. Following is a cut from the article.

"Hens used in the egg industry are systematically starved for up to two weeks, and in some cases, deprived of water for days at a time. This deprivation, termed "forced molting," shocks their systems into higher productivity. This practice not only causes intense suffering and mortality among the birds, but the USDA's own research shows that forced molting makes hens farm more susceptible to Salmonella, exacerbating the food safety issue already plaguing the egg industry. Peter Holt, Immunologist for the USDA's SE Poultry Research Lab stated, "While unmolted hens usually have to ingest about 50,000 Salmonella cells to become infected, molted hens need fewer than ten. Once infected, these hens shed far more germs in their feces than unmolted birds and are more likely to lay contaminated eggs." Forced molting both makes birds more susceptible to salmonella infection and increases its transmission to eggs and other birds."

I am extremely concern about such cruelty in practice. I am certainly hoping that the concerning administration takes proper steps regarding such a moral issue.

Thank you,

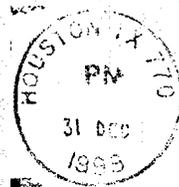
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