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Docket No. 01N-0423

FDA,

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I am a third generation Montana rancher. We are independent, self-employed and struggling to survive in today's challenging economic environment.

Why does the U.S. insist on importing huge quantities of grinding meat from virtually every corner of the world? In these times of terrorist attacks, mad cow disease, foot and mouth disease, etc., let's protect our borders and use some common sense. We should not only implement strict bans on any animal protein feed stuff, we should not be importing meat from the EU, Australia, Argentina or other countries.

APHIS wants to allow beef from Australia untested for tuberculosis to enter our country. There is little doubt that these foreign products lack wholesomeness compared to domestic product.

I read repeatedly where USDA or APHIS is strongly considering opening beef imports from some country only to haul to reconsider

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when an outbreak of foot-and-mouth or some other disease occurs.

To date, we clearly are and have been more lucky than either good or smart.

We import no poultry into this country, yet lamb imports have totally devastated the sheep industry in the U.S.

Mr. Tyson and the poultry industry seem to rate favored states.

Let's protect our consumers and domestic industry. Do not tarnish our reputation for producing the safest food supply in the world.

Sincerely
Roger Siroky
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