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November 28, 2004

Food and Drug Administration
Division of Dockets Management
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852.
Fax: 301-827-6870

Re: Docket Numbers 1996P-0418, 1997P-0197, 1998P-0203, and 2000N-0504

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regards to the proposals to prevent salmonella outbreaks in eggs during production. I urge you to ban forced molting, a practice in which hens may be starved for up to 14 days to induce a new egg laying cycle. Not only is forced molting extremely cruel, it is associated with salmonella infection and transmission among laying hens. Forced molting is very stressful to the hens, and the increased anxiety has been shown to depress immunity, leaving the hens much more vulnerable to transmissible diseases like salmonella.

I am sure that you are aware that Salmonella illnesses in the U.S. have remained essentially steady for the past several years, despite a goal set in the year 2000 to reduce outbreaks and foodborne contamination by 50 percent by the year 2010. The incidence of salmonella remains much higher than in previous decades, with an estimated 2.3 million salmonella-contaminated eggs consumed annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that these contaminated eggs caused 118,000 illnesses in 2001.

Again, please ban forced molting.

Sincerely,



Renee P. Snyder, Ph.D.

97P-0197

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