

October 6, 2005

Food and Drug Administration  
Division of Dockets Management  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

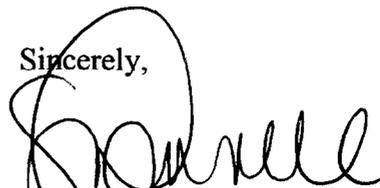
RE: Docket No. 2000N-0504

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a courtesy copy of a letter sent to Secretary Mike Leavitt regarding this docket number involving *Salmonella* in shell eggs. We filed comments regarding this docket number on July 25, 2005. We ask that you please include this letter with our comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Amy E. McDonnell  
Staff Attorney, Food Safety Division

2000N-0504

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October 6, 2005

Secretary Mike Leavitt  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: Final Rule regarding *Salmonella* Enteritidis in Shell Eggs

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

It has been a year since the FDA announced a proposed rule requiring shell egg producers to implement measures to prevent *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) from contaminating eggs on the farm. This proposal followed years of agency study, including a risk assessment completed in 1998. The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), which has advocated mandatory on-farm controls since 1997, is writing to urge that you finalize this rule as soon as possible.

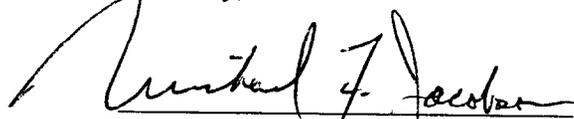
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that every year approximately 118,000 SE illnesses occur due to egg consumption. Other risk assessments conducted by the U.S. government show even higher estimates of illness. In 1998, the USDA carried out a comprehensive risk assessment for SE in eggs. That risk assessment showed that about 660,000 cases of human illnesses per year would result from the consumption of shell eggs, and its conclusions supported on-farm sanitation and egg diversion programs.

The proposal has been fully available for public comment and FDA has actively solicited comments, even extending and reopening the comment period to receive additional comments. Early in 2004, almost simultaneously with FDA's release of this proposed rule, the USDA released a new draft risk assessment, showing an estimated 350,000 illnesses per year resulting from the consumption of SE-contaminated eggs.

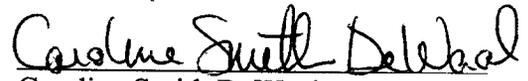
Mr. Secretary, the risk assessments are complete, the comments are in and the evidence clearly shows the importance of this rule. CSPI urges the FDA to move swiftly and to finalize this rule immediately.



Sincerely,



Michael F. Jacobson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Caroline Smith DeWaal  
Director, Food Safety Program