



South Dakota Department of Agriculture

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OCT 18 A9:49

October 13, 2005

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852.

RE: Docket No. 2002N-0273 or RIN 0910-AF46, proposed rule

Dear Sir:

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture submits the following comments on the above identified proposed rule to modify BSE protections.

First, we applaud your desire to make food as safe as possible for the American consumer.

However, we believe your proposal to ban certain risk material from all animal food is a backward approach to the problem.

The same problem or "risk" would be solved if no animal or animal by products were allowed in ruminant feeds.

What is fed to cats, dogs, chickens, and other animals would not impact the BSE risk in cattle, if no parts of other animals or any products from those animals were allowed in ruminant feeds.

We believe that abolishing many or all of the animal protein exceptions in the current rule is more logical than regulating what is fed to a pet or a chicken.

We encourage your objectives, but ask that you reconsider your approach.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gabriel, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Agriculture

2002N-0273

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