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December 30, 1999

FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA - 305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regard to Docket No. 97N-0074, regarding forced molting in hens, a farm practice which can ultimately be detrimental to human health. Standard molting procedure usually involves starving birds for ten to fourteen days at a time, which causes their immune systems to break down, leaving them more susceptible to Salmonella. *World Poultry* says that "While unmolted hens usually have to ingest about 50,000 Salmonella cells to become infected, molted hens need fewer than ten." (Vol. 12, No. 9, 1996) Forced molting is not only harmful to hens but potentially dangerous to humans, and is a practice which should be discontinued. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Kauffman
Amy Kauffman

97N-0074

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