8/09/00

Docket NO. 00N-0504

In your recommendations to ensure egg safety from farm to table you have left out the issue of forced molting. I ask you to prohibit forced molting because it is inhumane and is a PRIMARY SOURCE OF SALMONELLA, in laying hens.

The USDA has acknowledged that forced molting is a primary cause of SE illness as it suppresses the hens' immune system leaving them vulnerable to SE infection. Forced molting must be banned by the USDA, now.

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