Aug. 5, 1999
6401 Madison St.
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Dockets Management
Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Md. 20852

'99 AUG 10 P2:40

RE: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-019;

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting of hens by the U.S. egg industry. This extended starvation and water depuration practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis by the laying hens subjected to these practices.

Besides granting this petition

96P-0418

C119

without further delay, the FDA should also do the following

- Bacteria warnings on egg cartons and regulate egg refregeration temperatures is not enough.

- Prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune system.

- Ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The Cruelty + Contamination are

linked.

Since the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting that injure human health, they should do so without further delay.

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C119

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C120

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