



CONSOLIDATED BLENDERS, INC.

P. O. Box 609
HASTINGS, NEBRASKA 68902
(402) 463-3191

1173 5 DEC 23 19:43

Dec. 17, 2005

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

RE: Docket No. 2002N-0273, Proposed Rule Substances Prohibited From Use in Animal Food and Feed

Gentlemen:

WE are members of the AFIA and generally concur with the comments Richard Sellers has submitted under their letterhead. However, I feel compelled to emphasize a couple of the points that Richard as included in his statement.

Your proposal does strengthen the safeguards already in place to prevent the possible spread of BSE among ruminant animals in the United States and, subsequently, a possible case of the disease among humans. However, your proposal attains this additional safeguard at a substantial cost to both those industries involved and to society as a whole.

It does not appear to this writer that the FDA has given adequate thought to the disposal problem it is creating by the amount of material the proposal prohibits from being rendered and returned to the animal feed chain. Methods for disposal consist of either (1); incinerating the material at a great consumption of energy and the creation of additional CO₂, or (2); hauling the material to a landfill where it will be subject to being returned to the environment by rodents and other pests.

Minimizing the total amount of material that must be so disposed is critical to implementing the proposed feed ban. Since cattle under 30 months of age are not diagnosed with BSE, I urge the FDA to reduce the amount of material that is not rendered by allowing SRM's from animals under 30 months of age, that died without USDA inspection, to be returned to non-ruminant animal feed, if their age can be determined.

02N-0273

C498

In addition, I believe that the FDA must provide a procedure, or procedures, for the disposal of SRM's before the proposed feed ban is implemented. Such procedures must be widely accepted by State and Federal regulators and by the public at large. Failure to complete this step will result in much confusion, cost, and undeserved criticism of both the industry and FDA when improper disposal is undertaken out of ignorance by the small producers and processors across the hinterland.

Thanks you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



David Burkholder, V, P,