

Docket No. 98F-0165

August 1, 2000

To whom it may concern:

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I am writing to request that implementation of the new egg irradiation regulation be delayed and that a public hearing be held. Egg irradiation is merely a vain attempt to cover up the health risks inherent in keeping birds intensively confined, in disgusting conditions.

For example, a News Release published by the health research group Public Citizen, on July 24, 2000, states that radiation "treatment" of eggs will deplete vitamins, disrupt proteins, and mask factory farm filth. It says that "The request to irradiate eggs was made by Edward Josephson, who during the 1960s and 1970s oversaw the U.S. Army's food irradiation headquarters in Massachusetts, where dozens of studies revealed serious health problems in lab animals that ate irradiated food, including premature death and cancer."

The fact that *Salmonella enteritidis* has become such a problem is clear that the current unnatural, hazardous conditions of factory farms need to be changed. Introducing a further health risk, radiation "treatment", is obviously not a solution. The solution is to increase inspection standards and better regulate farming practices. For example, one important thing that can be done is to ban forced molting. Forced molting, in which hens are starved for up to two weeks, severely weakens hens' immune systems and endangers human egg consumers (in addition to the fact that it is clearly animal cruelty).

Thank you for your consideration.

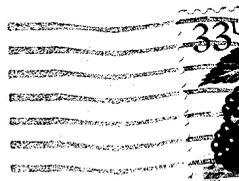
Sincerely,

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98F-0165

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