

I tried to E-mail this to you today, but it was not possible to get into your web site. ^{to get your E-mail address!} So, even though it is now past the Dec. 13 deadline, please include this with the other comments.

December 13, 1999

To: FDA
Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

1348 99

Thank you,
12/22/99
Linda

Re: Docket No. 99D-4488 & 99D-4489

This letter is in regard to the FDA's Proposed Guidelines for the Sprout Industry, which I believe need to be changed. These proposed guidelines would:

- 1) Force all sprout growers to have in-house laboratories.
- 2) Make the annual dumping of over 26 million gallons of bleach ok.
- 3) Put all or mostly all certified organic sprout growers out of business.
- 4) Not make sprouts safer.
- 5) Make it even harder to get good bacteria into our diets.

The new guidelines should:

- 1) Create a safe source of seed intended specifically for human consumption.
- 2) State that "Certified Organic Seed is considered an acceptable alternative approach to prevention of microbial hazards in sprouted seeds."
- 3) Create a government certification that labels seed grown for human consumption as such (like Grade A Beef), and make it mandatory that sprout growers use that government certified seed and/or certified organic seed.

Sincerely,

Linda Poehlman

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