



United Egg Producers

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May 24, 2005

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President

Gene Gregory
Sr. Vice President

Division of Dockets Management
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Linda Reickard
Vice President

Re: Docket No. 2000N-0504

Chad Gregory
Vice President

Dear Sir or Madam:

Sherry Shedd
Vice President of Finance

The United Egg Producers (UEP) and United Egg Association (UEA) Further Processor Division are requesting an extension of the reopened comment period on Docket Number 2000N-0504 "Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in Shell Eggs During Production." On December 21, 2004, UEP filed comments on the proposed rule that was published in the Federal Register of September 22, 2004.

Irving Isaacson, Esq.
UEP General Counsel

The May 10, 2005, notice of the reopened comment period requested additional comments by June 9, 2005. We are requesting an extension of this date to July 9, 2005, to provide a 60-day comment period. This rule is extremely important to the egg and egg products industries. UEP is a cooperative whose member farms account for about 90 percent of shell egg production in the United States. We have members in 42 of the 50 states, including every state where eggs are produced in commercially significant quantities.

Washington Office
Howard Magwire
Director of Government Relations

Michael McLeod, Esq.
Washington Counsel

Randy Green
Sr. Government Relations Rep.

As stated in the May 10 notice, the Food and Drug Administration is seeking further comment and information on industry practices and programs that prevent *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE)-monitored chicks from being infected by SE during the period of pullet rearing until placement into laying hen houses. UEP is urging producers and others to respond to the request for comments on such preventive measures and is also initiating a survey of all producer members to determine these measures, including specific cleaning and disinfection, biosecurity, testing, and vaccination regimens. The survey will seek

Egg Nutrition Center
Dr. Don McNamara
Executive Director

Egg Food Safety Center
Dr. Hilary Shallo Thesmar
Director of Food Safety Programs



Official U.S. Council Representative

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information on results of SE testing of pullet flocks and data that demonstrate the efficacy of different vaccination protocols. We have sought assistance from vaccine manufacturers and scientists in the design of the producer survey. UEP believes that the results of this survey will provide information that will greatly assist the agency as it proceeds with science-based rule-making. In light of our mutual desire to assure the safety of eggs and egg products, we believe sufficient time should be provided for the industry to complete this survey.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for an extension of the comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard M. Magwire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "H".

Howard M. Magwire
Director of Government Relations
United Egg Producers/United Egg Association

cc: Dr. Robert Brackett