FARM **Farm Animal Reform Movement**
10101 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda MD 20817; 301-530-1737

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To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to comment regarding the Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety's proposed strategic plan for addressing food safety hazards.

Meaningful food safety measures must address the source of food contamination-- unhygienic, mass production and processing of animals-- not just the symptoms. Irradiation and cooking thermometers will not improve consumer confidence in tainted food.

Industry must be required to raise healthy animals under drug-free and stress-free conditions and to process them humanely. Overuse of antibiotics, unwholesome feed, overcrowding and careless transport and slaughtering of livestock has led to a massive increase in food safety hazards.

Scientists estimate the misuse of antibiotics in animal feed results in two million cases of *Salmonella* poisoning each year. Massive meat recalls for bacterial contamination are mounting weekly. Consumers are told to increase cooking temperatures to destroy bacteria living on meat contaminated with feces.

Sick animals produce hazardous food. Humane and hygienic treatment and conditions for farm animals are essential to any strategy aimed at improving food quality and safety. Concerned consumers are turning to the organic market in the absence of meaningful federal regulation of animal agriculture.

Regulatory authority at the animal production stage must be expanded and improved. The Humane Slaughter Act must be enforced at the processing stage. Funding for increased regulation must be secured.

Thank you for your consideration.

Recycled Paper

Sincerely,

97N-0074

Lucy Goodrum, Esq.

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"Saving Our Planet – One Bite at a Time"

WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY

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"Stop Slaughterhouse Cruelty Now!"

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