



## POWDER RIVER BASIN RESOURCE COUNCIL

23 North Scott • Sheridan, WY 82801 • (307) 672-5809  
P.O. Box 1178 • Douglas, WY 82633 • (307) 358-5002

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket #00-036A  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 102 Cotton Annex Building  
300 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

September 11, 2001

7

00-036A  
00-036A-7  
Kevin F. Lind

On behalf of the members of the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) and as directed by the Council's Board of Directors I am writing in response to the proposed rulemaking regarding the definition and labeling of "United states cattle" and "United States fresh beef products." (Docket #00-036A).

Powder River Basin Resource Council is a grassroots membership group of Wyoming citizens. The stated mission of our organization is:

1. The preservation and enrichment of Wyoming's agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle.
2. The conservation of Wyoming's unique land, minerals, water and clean air consistent with the responsible use of those resources to sustain the livelihood of present and future generations.
3. The education and empowerment of Wyoming's citizens to raise a coherent and effective voice in decisions that will impact their environment and lifestyle.

Powder River Basin Resource Council strongly supports the Food and Safety Inspection Services current definition for voluntary labeling of fresh beef products as meaning that products are derived from cattle born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States or in a specific geographic location in the United States. PRBRC believes that any other definition, such as allowing cattle born and raised in another country, and then shipped to the USA for a brief period before slaughtering is in effect a formulated deception of United States citizens.

**The official stance of the Powder River Basin Resource Council as passed by membership resolution is that Country of Origin labeling of fresh beef products should be required as mandatory.**

All labels that signify beef as a US product, such as "USA Beef", "Product of the USA" and "Made in the USA" should adhere to the definition of "born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the USA." This labeling terminology is such that all consumers will understand without confusion as to the origin of the beef. Consumers should not be misled into thinking that a USDA grade means the beef was of US origin, therefore all fresh beef products should be labeled as to its country of origin.

Many of the Powder River Basin Resource Council members are cattle ranchers. All of our members are consumers and believe that the public has a right know where their food is coming from.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kevin F. Lind  
Director

