

FSIS Regulations

From: Gerald Edwards [Gerald@Edwards.net] (28)
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2003 1:43 AM
To: FSIS Regulations
Cc: sheldon71@bellsouth.net; Renee Unterman; jack.kingston@mail.house.gov; gao6@mail.house.gov; john.linder@mail.house.gov; mac.collins@mail.house.gov; rep.charlie.norwood@mail.house.gov; gingrey.ga@mail.house.gov; david.scott@mail.house.gov; saxby_chambliss@chambliss.senate.gov; vice.president@whitehouse.gov; president@whitehouse.gov
Subject: Docket 02-015DF



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Opposition to FSIS 9 CFR Part 381 RIN 0583-AC97

02-015DF-28 02-015DFGerald Edwards
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The United States Ratite industry is currently alive and working diligently to ensure quality meats and by-products are available to the American public. The ratite industry includes the American Emu Association, Ostrich and Rhea Associations. Each of these associations include State associations and individual farmers.

The emu, ostrich and rhea farmers have been devoting time, energy and their personal assets to ensure high quality ratite meats and therapeutic oils, void of antibiotics and growth hormones, are available to the American public. The Australian and New Zealand producers may be in compliance with the processing requirements, currently established for U.S. facilities, in the slaughter and preparation of the meats and by-products. However, the U.S. standards set by the various associations (based on years of research by our medical community) is not currently maintained by foreign ratite producers.

I implore you to reconsider your economic analysis. There appears to be no "statement of need" (section 3(f)(1) of Executive Order 12866) other than a "request" by these countries to export ratite products to the United States. The Statement "The Administrator, FSIS, has made an initial determination that this direct final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq)." is not accurate. This action will have a very significant impact on thousands of U. S. emu, ostrich and rhea producers, to the extent that many could be driven out of business.

Passage of the above referenced action will result in flooding the U.S. market with ratite meats and oils that fail to meet the high standards currently enjoyed by the American public and established by the ratite community.

I strongly urge this action be rejected and that a withdrawal notice be issued.

Respectfully Submitted
Gerald Edwards

Gwendolyn Farms
2481 Walton Downs Rd.
Monroe, Georgia 30655

<http://GwendolynFarms.myRanch.com>
Phone: (770) 464-1477
eMail: GwendolynFarms@myRanch.com

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