

FSIS Regulations

From: Ostrichonhilltop@aol.com
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Subject: ATTEONTION FSIS DOCKET CLERK

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Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service

9CFR Part 381
(Docket No. 02-015DF)

02-015DF-41
02-015DF
Paul Wagoner
Sallie Richie

RIN 0583-AC97
Addition of Australia and New Zealand to the List of Foreign Countries
Eligible to Import Poultry Products (Ratite Only) into the United States

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA
FISI Docket Clerk
Docket 03-015DF, RM 102
Cotton Annex, 300 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Gentlemen:

I am responding to the above proposal to lift import restrictions for ratites and ratite products from Australia and New Zealand. I am opposed to this action. I represent, not only myself, but many fellow ostrich farms and ranches in the United States.

As American Ostrich Farmers, we are struggling like all American Farmers, trying to keep our business gaining. We raise our birds for meat and leather. We have been doing this for ten years and the industry is now beginning to grow domestically in this country.

Ostrich meat is a very healthy product. My wife and I work very hard to supply customers in our area with a top quality product that is free of growth hormones, antibiotics or animal byproducts. We follow all USDA regulations.

THE IMPORTATION OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS WILL SEVERLY UNDERMINE ALL OUR EFFORTS. Passage of an agreement to lift the import restrictions with Australia and New Zealand will hurt every ostrich grower in the United States.

Respectfully,
Member of the American Ostrich Association and The North Carolina Ostrich Breeders Association
Paul Wagoner and Sallie Richie
Winston-Salem, NC
336-760-6189