

FSIS RegulationsComments

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To: FSIS RegulationsComments
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As an Inspector, I cannot imagine that it would be safe for the Chinese to export any poultry product that has not been irradiated. Even if the product was irradiated, the shipping containers could contain microbes that we would not want transferred into the US. I am currently in an agricultural leadership course, which includes an international session. I had been strongly in favor of a visit to China until we heard through sources that the "bird flu" problem was much worse than the Chinese government has admitted. We have been told that even if we put the trip together we would not be allowed to visit any farms.

As a beef producer and a US citizen, I do not think it is a good plan to allow any further expansion of Chinese imports into this country without some type of agreement to allow our products to be imported into their country. To illustrate the point, I visited an operation that exports hay to Japan. Shipping cost per ton from Washington State to Japan is \$35.00. Shipping is low because container ships going back to the Orient are for the most part empty.

I realize that I am only seeing a small part of this picture, but until I see how this proposal will benefit anyone other than the Chinese, I will oppose any import of Chinese poultry into the US.