



National Pork Producers Council

Washington Office  
122 C Street, N.W., Suite 875  
Washington, D.C., 20001  
(202) 347-3600  
FAX (202) 347-5265

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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

98-027R-2  
98-027R  
John McNutt

**Re: Docket No. 98-027R** – Comments: Meat Produced by Advanced Meat/Bone Separation Machinery and Recovery Systems

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), one of the largest commodity organizations in the nation. Headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, with an office in Washington, D.C., the Council works to build a strong and vital pork industry by solving problems efficiently for the nation's pork producers.

The pork industry is one of the largest agricultural sectors in this country, generating approximately \$11.0 billion in annual farm sales (although farm gate sales were reduced to approximately \$9.0 billion in 1998 as a result of the lowest prices in history in deflated dollars). In addition, the pork industry creates an estimated \$64.0 billion in economic activity and supports an estimated 600,000 jobs.

Although NPPC's primary responsibility is to represent pork producers, we are very interested in issues such as Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) due to our pork chain approach to issues affecting our industry. Through research, education and promotion, NPPC gets involved in all segments of the pork industry from nutritional and genetic suppliers to pork consumers. We have been very interactive with the packing industry with many programs designed to assist them meet our common goal of quality pork products for our domestic and international customers. We are very pleased that the Agency has taken a science-based approach to this subject and strongly encourage a continuation of this approach with regard to AMR.

As a member of the Industry Coalition on AMR, NPPC supports the position outlined in their submitted comments. The Coalition comments center on the issues having to do with food safety, worker health and safety, economic impact, updated Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP's), meat definition, and other related issues. The members of the Coalition have discussed these at length and unanimously agree on the positions expressed therein.

**National Headquarters**

P.O. Box 10383 • Des Moines, Iowa 50306 USA • (515) 223-2600 • FAX (515) 223-2646



The Other  
White Meat.