

January 26, 2000

FSIS Docket Clerk
Food Safety and Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 102 Cotton Annex Building
300 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20250-3700

(Handwritten initials)

*Rec'd
2/15/00
MR*

RE: FSIS Docket No.99-062N The Future of FSIS Veterinarians: Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century

To whom it may concern:

Being a prospective veterinarian, I hold a specific interest in the employment opportunities that may reveal themselves in the next few years. I am also interested in professions which are closely related to my own, in that there shall certainly be interactions between myself and those proficient in the aforementioned fields. Having said this, I wish to assert my opinions concerning the governing of these fields.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) released a draft report which gave information about the work-in-progress of a Task Force of a diverse group of individuals including veterinarians from inside and outside of FSIS, a variety of FSIS management personnel, and individuals affiliated with academe, non-government organizations and foreign governments. This draft report revolved around five major issues concerning the future roles of FSIS veterinarians. These included: 1) Defining the role of the FSIS veterinarian, 2) education, training, recognition, and recruitment, 3) Partnerships, 4) coordinated databases and animal identification, and 5) veterinary contributions to international credibility of FSIS.

These 5 topics are of major importance to upcoming veterinarians whom have yet to discover there particular role in the veterinary field. Of particular worth is the topic of education, training, recognition and recruitment. Its seems today that in the United States many veterinary students are ill informed of the career possibilities which lay before them. With proper education and recruitment, the FSIS could better equip the veterinary science students to direct there education more toward the field of food science. Perhaps as noteworthy as education is the topic which sets forth the idea to attempt building a database for animal identification. Surely the technology for such a database exist, and the gains far outweigh the problems associated with the attempt. With a large database specific outbreaks of food born pathogens could be more quickly and easily recognized and isolated. Also, with respect to possible illegal activity, the guilty parties may be more easily found.

In all the proposal was well thought out and well written. In my opinion these topics should be researched and then instituted.

Sincerely,

Aaron N. Sipe
Aaron Nathaniel Sipe