

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket #00-036A  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 102 Cotton Anex Building  
300 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

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Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Merta

October 5, 2001

Dear Food Safety and Inspection Service:

We are concerned about the quality of meat products we consume. We believe that the new proposed ruling to define U.S. cattle and fresh beef products for labeling purposes needs serious consideration.

Cattle and beef products that were born and partially raised in another country should not be labeled as a product of the United States. U.S. cattle and beef products need labeling that states "born, raised, slaughtered and processed in the United States"; we are, thus, safe with U.S. beef we eat because of the inspection process that the Department of Agriculture does.

When we buy clothes or cars, we know where the country-of-origin is by the label or by documents. We believe that U.S. beef products from birth, growth, slaughter and processing must have an United States origin label on them.

We appreciate your reading this letter and your consideration of our thoughts.

Sincerely yours,

*Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Merta*

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