



# Sanderson Farms, Inc.

LAUREL PRODUCTION DIVISION

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November 12, 2001

Docket Clerk  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
300 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 102 Cotton Annex  
Washington, DC 20250

01-030N  
01-030N-139  
Steve McLaurin

Re: Docket number 01-030N

Industry Petition to Postpone the Effective Date of Regulations Limiting and Requiring Labeling for Retained Water in Raw Meat and Poultry Products.

**The following comments are submitted in support of the above referenced industry petition:**

The rule was set with only twelve months to comply. This would be very difficult to do if a completed and confirmed ruling was in place. As we know it was not until July that the final pre-implementation procedures were released. Now we must go through the four-step process for compliance in a consecutive order that cannot be completed in such a short time. This does not seem to be fair or reasonable given the fact that food safety is not an issue in this matter.

The time allotted is not one that can be lived with in the poultry industry. If the current rule is followed several companies will not be able to continue to provide an economical food source to the consumer. I believe that the need for poultry products in the grocery store at a reasonable price out ways the benefit of pushing this rule into affect in such a short time period. Please extend the compliance date until August 1, 2004 as requested by petition.

Sincerely,

Steve McLaurin  
Division Mgr Laurel MS