

FSIS Regulations

From: Loretta Hobson [LHobson@cranecarrier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2003 4:31 PM
To: FSIS Regulations
Subject: Attention FSIS Docket Clerk - [Docket No. 02-015DF] RIN0583-AC97

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02-015DF-23 02-015DF William L. Hobson

We have just been advised at the intent of our government to allow Australia and New Zealand to the List of Foreign Countries Eligible to Import Poultry Products (Ratite Only) into the United States.

As a struggling Emu grower we strongly object to this. Our government should not be subsidizing other countries to compete with our domestic markets. We have been a struggling industry for several years and it seems as just as we are on brink of getting our products recognized we get someone else acting against us.

We have been working diligently with the USDA, FDA, Farm Bureaus and state departments of agriculture to enact legislation for the safety and control of ratite processing and marketing. All of our efforts have been concentrated on getting the best, safest product to the American people and now it is being undermined again. The Australian oil that is currently being marketed in the US is of such an inferior quality it is undermining the top quality product we are striving for.

PLEASE reconsider the rule as proposed and aid the small ratite farmer in his own country.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/

William L. Hobson
Loretta M. Hobson

IBN Emu Ranch - Collinsville, OK