

## FSIS Regulations

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**From:** Emuspirit@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2003 4:15 PM  
**To:** FSIS Regulations  
**Subject:** ATTENTION: FSIS Docket Clerk

(24)



ATT541765.htm (2 KB)

Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA  
FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 02-015DF, Room 102  
Cotton Annex, 300 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

02-015DF-24  
02-015DF  
Lorena McLaughlin

Gentlemen:

We are responding to the above proposal to lift import restrictions for ratites and ratite products from Australia and new Zealand. We are very much AGAINST doing this.

As American Emu Growers, we are struggling, like all American farmers at this time, to keep our business going. We raise our Emu mainly for Oil products as well as meat products. Our birds, like most American Emu, are raised using no added antibiotics, growth hormones or animal byproducts.

We, like most American Emu Growers are a start to finish business. This means that we hatch the birds, raise them to about 2 years old, process them, have hides tanned and have the Emu Oil refined. We then use companies to put the Oil into products, then we wholesale or retail the end products. As you can see, we must be able to get a reasonable price for all our finished products in order to stay in business.

Australian Emu Oil is already undercutting American Emu Oil by one half to two-thirds. Australian Emu Oil wholesales for \$35.00 -- \$85.00 per gallon while American Emu Oil sells for \$125.00 -- \$160.00 a gallon. Australian Emu growers receive help from their government to stay in business. The American farmer receives no aid and must rely on themselves for everything. There is no way the American farmer can compete with the low cost of raising emu in Australia. In America, our Oil is carefully tested for quality adding to the cost of Oil. There is currently a lot of Australian Emu Oil in this country that is vastly inferior. This is causing a lack of credibility to the American Industry.

All American Emu Growers will be hurt enormously with the passage of an agreement to lift the import restrictions with Australia.

Please reconsider and please conduct some more research on the matter.

Regards,  
Lorena McLaughlin /s/  
Emu Spirit USA  
5700 Lordsburg Trail  
Arlington, Texas 76017