

FSIS Regulations

From: Barbara Baker [bakers_acres@email.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2003 3:49 PM
To: FSIS Regulations
Cc: info@citizens.org
Subject: FSIS Docket Clerk

26
02-015DF-26
02-015DF
David & Barbara
Baker

I am an emu farmer since 1994 and AGAINST the proposal to lift import restrictions for ratites and ratite products from Australia and New Zealand. We have TODAY (7-23-03) to respond to the FSIS Docket #02-015DF. This Docket is a request from Australia and New Zealand to be allowed to ship their emu oil and emu products to America with no restrictions.

This would cause tremendous harm to the American Emu, Ostrich and Rhea Farmer. We as emu farmers have been struggling for years to keep our businesses going. Our birds, like most American emu are raised using no added antibiotics, growth hormones or animal by-products. As emu farmers we have worked to establish high standards for our Emu Oil. The emu industry, after years of research, has established the credibility of our animals and this was done through our own efforts and joined contributions to oil research and study. No government fund was ever available to us for this research so the funding came from us, the farmer. Now that we have proven the benefits of this amazing animal and have worked so hard to survive...we face the loss of the fruits of our labors at the hands of our own government. Unlike other poultry, the emu takes upwards of a year or longer to be ready for marketing. That represents quite an investment of time, money and resources, all of which are in short supply to American farmers. We get no subsistence from the government. And now, our government is going to essentially provide subsistence to the Australian and New Zealand producers by opening the American market to them. They already get subsistence from their governments. Passage of Docket 02-015DF will result in flooding the U.S market with ratite meats and oils that fail to meet the high standards currently enjoyed by the American public and established by the ratite community.

Please support the American farmer by voting against this Docket No. 02-015DF

David Baker, Vice Pres. Georgia Emu Association /s/
Barbara Baker, Board Member Georgia Emu Assoc. /s/
Baker's Acres Emu Farm
Hampton, GA
--

Sign-up for your own FREE Personalized E-mail at Mail.com <http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

CareerBuilder.com has over 400,000 jobs. Be smarter about your job search
<http://corp.mail.com/careers>