

GENTLE RIDGE EMU PRODUCTS
3655 Beaver Creek Drive
Hillsboro WI 54634

July 21, 2003

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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-52
02-015DF
Avery and Deena
Gentle

RE: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Safety and Inspection Service
9 CFR Part 381
[Docket No. 02-015DF]
RIN 0583-AC97

Addition of Australia and New Zealand to the List of Foreign Countries Eligible to Import Poultry Products (Ratite Only) Into the United States

Gentlemen and Ladies:

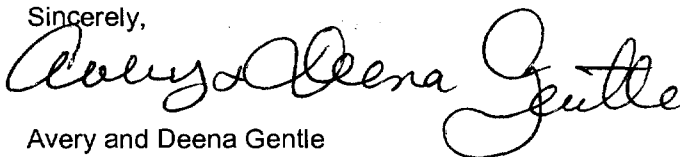
This is to register our strong opposition to the above proposal, to lift import restrictions on ratite products from Australia and New Zealand.

For the past 10 years we have been actively involved in the growth of raising ratites as a viable form of alternative agriculture. Farming ratites gives struggling farmers in the US an opportunity to stay on family farms, and participate in raising a livestock that offers healthy meat, and a variety of useful by products, such as topical oil, hides, etc.

Our infant industry (ostrich and emu) has worked with USDA, FSIS, FDA, state agriculture departments, colleges and universities, state farm bureaus, American Oil Chemists Society, and numerous other agencies and national organizations to ensure the development of regulations and procedures for bringing safe and healthy products to the marketplace.

Please do not allow this rule for importing ratite products to go into effect. It will severely harm the growth and health of the ratite industry in the US.

Sincerely,



Avery and Deena Gentle