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Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection

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.

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

02-015DF-56
02-015DF
Dean Ten Bensel

Gentlemen,

I am responding to the above proposal to lift import restrictions for ratite and ratite products from Australia and New Zealand.

I am very much AGAINST doing this.

I represent not only my business, but also other ostrich producers as well.

As a American Ostrich processor and distributor we are struggling with a new product. We have worked very hard to promote this product and win its acceptance.

It is very important that we are able to sell our products at the prices we are now getting in order to keep the American industry alive.

We have been experience imported meat from these countries already at prices lower than our cost of production. If ostrich meat continues to come into the US it will be the end of the ostrich industry in this country. This is very devastating considering all the effort and investment we and all the producers have put forth. We are seeing producers not setting eggs or going out of business now because of this imported meat.

We have worked with the USDA, FDA, state department of agricultures, colleges and universities, and state and federal governments to enact legislation for the safety, control and regulation of ostrich. We are doing all we can to provide a safe product for the American consumer. We understand some meat from one of these countries came in contaminated. This is all we need to devastate the industry like Mad Cow did to the beef industry in Canada and England.

I would respectfully ask you to reconsider and withdraw this rule.

Dean tenBensel

Nutri-tech Ostrich, LLC
General Manger