

03-027P-4.txt

From: Mike Bean [MikeB@ctlfax.com]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2005 11:57 AM
To: fsi.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov
Cc: Pam Gane; Arlan Henke; Pete Klug
Subject: Food Safety and Inspection Service docket number 03-0237P

To the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Commercial Testing Lab. is a small business in rural Wisconsin. We have been a USDA accredited laboratory since the 1960's. For many years (into the 1970's) we had the privilege of testing many USDA retained samples for Protein, Moisture, Fat and Salt. We maintained the accreditation up until this time mostly for our customers that expect this of us. Even though we do not do any testing for the USDA Meat program, we have continually paid for the accreditation.

The proposed rule change on Service docket number 03-0237P increases the fees from \$1500 to \$4000 the first year and \$5200 and beyond.

You are creating severe financial hardship on the independent laboratories who are accredited. The current fee of \$1500 is very high due to the minimal work your in-lab inspection requires.

If we had the USDA holding sample testing work, we can justify the increase.

I am asking you to consider not increasing the fee to non-Federal labs such as us, Commercial Testing Lab. I understand the increase in fees to meat plants due to the amount of work of inspection. Our part of the system is to provide laboratory tests to the plant at their expense, not to the Federal government.

Yours truly,
Michael Bean, President and Owner
Commercial Testing Lab.
Email: mi keb@ctlfax.com