



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

NATIONAL AFFAIRS & RESEARCH DIVISION

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October 28, 2005

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th Street, S.W.
Room 112 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

04-037N
04-037N-16
AnnMarie de Grassi

RE: **Treatment of Live Poultry Before Slaughter – Docket No. 04-037N**
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) is writing in response to the U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) notice addressing recent concerns raised regarding poultry slaughter as published in the *Federal Register* on September 28, 2005 (70 FR 56624). Farm Bureau, representing its nearly 87,000 members, strongly supports the humane treatment of animals and would never condone the mistreatment of them. For these reasons, Farm Bureau is pleased that FSIS is reminding all poultry slaughter establishments that live poultry should be treated humanely.

California agriculture faces frequent scrutiny from an ever-increasing urban population. Agriculture constantly looks for improvements in production practices so that we can continue to do the best job possible while coexisting with our urban neighbors. One example is a recent request by California's poultry industry to the University of California Cooperative Extension to update and revise its Broiler Care Practices to ensure that the most current and scientifically correct slaughter practices are included. The Broiler Care Practices is one of a series of University of California publications addressing the issue of animal care as it relates to food production in California.

Livestock and poultry producers are proud to provide safe, wholesome meat products to consumers and strive to do so by following scientifically supported and industry tested management practices. Farm Bureau is pleased to support FSIS assertions that humane treatment of poultry is necessary to meet agency regulations. We will continue to support research of humane management practices and urge USDA to do the same. Farm Bureau looks forward to working with FSIS on this issue in the future. Please feel free to contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

AnnMaria de Grassi
Director

cc: The Honorable Barbara Matthews
Mr. Jim Collin, Assembly Agriculture Committee Consultant