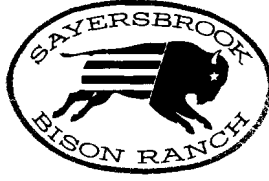


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SAYERSBROOK BISON RANCH

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FAX: 573-438-2948 • NET: [Http://www.sayersbrook.com](http://www.sayersbrook.com)

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Art Dupree

March 19, 1999

The SayersBrook Bison Ranch opposes the proposed increase in voluntary meat inspection fees. Bison producers are already at an economic disadvantage when competing with meat which receives free inspection. As the public becomes increasingly concerned regarding safe food, meat inspection is important to the acceptance of our product.

The proposed increase is a 12% increase in the base rate whereas the justification for the increase is tied to the 3.1% pay increase for federal employees and 1.9% rate of inflation. Those numbers do not add up to 12%.

We disagree with the proposed rule statement that "small establishments would not be affected adversely by the proposed fee increases." Our industry is comprised of "small establishments" when compared to the size of beef, pork or chicken. This rule will have a direct, negative impact on our producers and our industry.

Sincerely,

Art Dupree
General Manager