

October 4, 2001

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket #00-036A  
Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Room 102 Cotton Annex Building  
300 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

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David M. Johnson

Dear Sir or Madam:

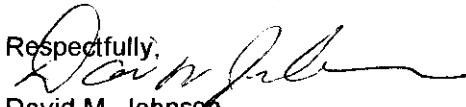
I am writing in response to the proposed rulemaking regarding the definition and labeling of U.S. cattle and beef products. I strongly support the definition of U.S. cattle and beef products for labeling purposes as "born, raised, and processed in the United States." All other definitions mislead consumers and damage the integrity of the U.S. cattle industry.

U.S. producers spend significant time, money, resources and energy in order to produce top quality livestock. Cattle and beef products that were born and partially raised in another country should not be labeled as a product of the U.S.A. We buy clothes, cars and many other manufactured goods that bear the country of origin label; and yet, there is no requirement for country of origin labels for the food we feed to our families. As a matter of choice, many consumers may wish to purchase meat from animals born and raised in the United States or any number of countries.

I strongly support a mandatory labeling program with a uniform, consistent definition for domestic origin as born, raised, and processed in the United States. I oppose the petition submitted in September 2000, that would allow imported cattle to be fed in the U.S. for 100 days, processed in the U.S. and would receive a country of origin label, "Beef: Made in the U.S.A."

It is my hope that FSIS will implement meaningful and truthful labeling regulations for cattle and beef products. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

  
David M. Johnson  
410 W. Arthur St.  
Bozeman, Montana 59715