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of American Grassfed Association

The USDA has published for comment grass fed standards to define what the term Grass Fed means. This claim defines grass fed to mean animals who receive 99% of their lifetime energy supply from grass and forage. However, it falls short of defining where this forage diet can be fed.

To most consumers the term grass fed means animals humanely raised in grass pastures from birth to harvest, the way nature intended. The USDA proposal would allow animals to be kept in confinement, fed harvested forage, corn silage and other grains that have not been separated from their stalks. If this proposed claim passes into regulation you could see feedlot beef fed antibiotics, hormones and legally be labeled grassfed..

We feel so strongly about this we are asking for your help in responding to the USDA. We are quite sure you don't want grass fed animals standing in confinement for 160 to 220 days, without shade, eating corn silage and being fed antibiotics and growth hormones. We ask you to please take the time to insure the term Grassfed means range or pasture raised not Factory Farmed, confinement raised.

As a producer we strongly feel that any grass fed standard must address and restrict confinement feeding as an integral part of that standard, otherwise the label will lose its integrity. As a consumer, we believe you will agree with us and ask that you please E-Mail the USDA at [marketingclaim@usda.gov](mailto:marketingclaim@usda.gov) to allow your opinion to be known. Refer to Docket No. LS-05-09.

The deadline for accepting comment is August 10. Simply comment that you as a consumer believe that the standard for grassfed must include reference to being raised on pasture and a restriction of confinement feeding systems.

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To read more on grassfed, click here to go to the AGA forums (Note: even though this link has the word "beef" in the title, please know that we welcome comments on all species!):  
<http://forums.americangrassfedbeef.com>

We thank American Grassfed Beef Company for hosting this forum for us.  
P.S. Feel free to forward this alert to your friends, clients and colleagues.