

Meat Processors and Direct Marketers,

Some of you may have heard about the proposal from the USDA to demand more HACCP validation. In a nut shell this would require more microbial testing which could cost meat processors over \$30,000 annually (Dr. Joe Cordray, Meat and Poultry Magazine) . Like most USDA regulations, they are written vaguely which causes a variety of interpretations. The American Association of Meat Processors and the American Meats Institute have been following this proposal since the beginning of its conception and have been spear-heading the objections to these proposals.

The fear is that these regulations could hurt or eliminate our small and very small meat processors and/or drastically hamper the growth of others. For our direct marketers this proposal could increase your costs \$30 to \$50 per carcass as the costs of microbial testing could be passed on to you. Or your meat processor may give up their inspection stamp and become a Custom Exempt processor.

You have an opportunity to make comments to the proposed regulations. A meeting was held at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to discuss the issue. Those close to our congressmen's offices advised us to write letters to the Docket Clerk discussing how the proposed regulations would affect your business, your community, and your employees and families. Attached you will find a copy of the proposed regulations and below is the address of where to mail your letters. More information can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/HACCP_Validation_Ltrs.pdf or www.aamp.com

Please take time to comment to the proposal, as the comment period has been extended until May 24th. And please contact me if you have any questions.

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