

August 4, 2006

Martin E. O'Connor, Chief  
Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Program  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rm. 2607-S  
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-0254

Re: Docket No. LS-05-09

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and its more than 1.1 million members and supporters, I am submitting comments in response to Docket No. LS-05-09, "United States Standard for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claim, Grass (Forage) Fed Claim." PETA urges the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that any products labelled "grass fed" come from animals who are allowed to graze in pastures.

Consumers who see the "grass fed" label assume that the animals the products come from were pasture-raised and not confined to feedlots. To define the term in a manner that differs from public perception will mislead consumers.

Moreover, intensive confinement subjects cattle to severely crowded, barren, and unhygienic environments that lead to physical ailments like lameness and extreme psychological stress. For ethical reasons, as well as in consideration of consumers who often choose meat from "grass fed" animals for humane reasons, the term "grass fed" should not be defined in a manner that is deleterious to the animals marketed under this label. Producers who market their meat as "grass fed" are attempting to advertise a higher standard of raising animals, and the government should not water down such efforts.

Thank you for your attention and concern.

Sincerely,



Noam Mohr  
Farmed Animal Research Associate



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS