



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C.
20250

Mr. Joe Maxwell
Executive Director
Organization for Competitive Markets
P.O. Box 6486
Lincoln, NE 68506

Dear Mr. Maxwell:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the June 12, 2018, petition you submitted on behalf of the Organization for Competitive Markets and the American Grassfed Association requesting that FSIS amend the “Product of U.S.A.” entry in the FSIS Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book (the Policy Book). As noted in your petition, the second paragraph of the entry provides that the labeling for a meat or poultry product may include the statement “Product of U.S.A.” if the product is processed in the United States. The petition requests that FSIS revise this paragraph to state that labeling may include the phrase ‘Product of U.S.A.’ ... “[i]f it can be determined that significant ingredients having a bearing on consumer preference, such as meat, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, etc., are of domestic origin (minor ingredients such as spices and flavorings are not included),” and that ... “the labels should be approved with the understanding that such ingredients are of domestic origin.” The petition notes that the requested amendment would restore FSIS Policy Memo 080 dated April 16, 1985, which was cancelled by the existing Policy Book Entry.

Your request is being considered as a petition for policy change under FSIS’s petition regulations (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 18-05. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition and the supporting documentation will be posted on the FSIS Website at:
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>.

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff, at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Michael".

Matthew Michael
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development