

From: Richard Roesch
Cc: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: As ranchers in nw Kansas ,we feel that any synthetic product to replace or compete with true animal based protein meat not be allowed to use the word"meat" in labeling the product. We are required to pay a check off to promote our product,which is also...
Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 8:20:05 PM

Sent from my iPad Respectfully, Richard Roesch, Roesch Ranch



From: Lee Vann [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 8:32 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: USCA Petition

I support the USCA petition about the labeling of meat.
I can't find a portal to sign it online, so I'm sending you this email.

Lee Vann
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone... Isn't that special?

From: Roberta Nagel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:48 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS; Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: FSIS DOCKET CLERK-USDA BEEF AND MEAT LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Jack Nagel
[REDACTED]

April 3, 2018

FSIS Docket Clerk
United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Room 2534 South Building
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700
Attention: Ms. Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager; Mr. Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development;
E-mails: Mary.Porretta@fsis.usda.gov; Matthew.Michael@fsis.usda.gov

Re: Letter in Support of the February 9, 2018 Petition to Establish Beef and Meat Labeling Requirements: To Exclude Product Not Derived Directly from Animals Raised and Slaughtered from the Definition of "Beef" and "Meat" filed by the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA); Petition 18-01

Dear Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael:

I am a third-generation cow/calf producer from North Dakota. My family and I have been in the cattle/ranching business since the 1960's which is 58 years as a 4-H Leader/Member then a rancher.

I support the petition filed on Feb. 9, 2018, by the U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) which requests the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to establish certain beef labeling requirements. In particular, I support the petitions request that the FSIS limit the definition of "beef" to products from cattle, born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. I also support the request to exclude products derived from alternative sources from being labeled as "beef," as well as the definition of "meat" being limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner and not to include alternative sources, such as synthetic product from plants, insects, or non-animal components and any product grown in a lab from animal cells.

As reviewed in the petition, non-beef products marketed as "beef" are being mislabeled and are causing consumer confusion. There is need for accurate labeling and relaying correct information to consumers; the current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on alternative protein products that are not derived from livestock are misleading and inaccurate. The petition seeks to establish accurate labeling of all products and asks for clarification on what can be labeled as "beef" or "meat."

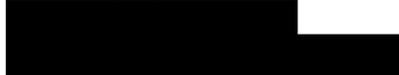
I would hope that you give this matter your careful consideration. Consumers should not face confusion

due to misleading labeling at the meat counter. Current use of terms “beef” and “meat” on products NOT derived from cattle raised in the traditional manner creates confusion in the marketplace.

Thank you for your attention to this matter as the future of what the U.S. Cattle Industry stands for, is at stake here.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Nagel, Farmer/Rancher

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Jack Nagel.

From: Mike Heaton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 2:48 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: petition 18-01

Dear Ms. Porretta,

I am a fourth generation North Dakota cattle rancher, urging support for the petition filed by the United States Cattlemen's Association on Feb. 9, 2018. I support establishing labeling requirements referring to "beef" or "meat". I further believe all other sources of mostly incomplete proteins should have to find their own identities.

Sincerely,
Mike Heaton

[REDACTED]

From: Sierra Dawn Stoneberg Holt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 11:56 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Cc: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: Supporting petition No. 18-01 that beef and meat should be defined as the product of an animal

Truth in labeling is important. My grandson was healthy until he was given infant rice cereal. Then we discovered that they put soybean products in the cereal. Soybean is one of the top eight causes of severe allergic reactions. We also found out the hard way that "fresh" sandwich meats can be sprayed with a soybean product to make them look fresh.

Mislabeled "meat" made of alternative protein sources (usually part soybeans) could cause serious allergic reactions if accidentally ingested by a susceptible individual.

Manufactured meat should be labeled as such AND all its ingredients listed.

Laboratory grown meat should be labeled as such and ingredients of its growth medium listed.

Consumers want to know where (and how fed and managed) their food comes from and they NEED to know what is in that food for health reasons.

Sincerely,
Rose Stoneberg, DVM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[typed by Sierra Stoneberg Holt]

From: Travis Heaton [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 7:28 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: (USCA); Petition 18-01

Dear Mr. Michael

I am a fifth generation North Dakota cattle rancher.

I write to you to express my support of the United States Cattlemen's Association petition filed on Feb. 9, 2018. I strongly believe in all labels referring to "beef" or "meat" being that which is derived from tissue or flesh of animals harvested in the traditional manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Travis Heaton

[REDACTED]

From: Karen Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:20 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS; Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: Petition 18-01

RE: Meat and Beef

Labeling

Please consider requests included in Petition number 18-01 and support honest, fair, and accurate labeling of meat and beef products to include only such products derived from animals born, raised and harvested in the traditional manner. Including the word “meat” and/or “beef” in the marketing of any synthetic, laboratory-derived protein product is detrimental to the agriculture industry, but also extremely misleading and grossly unfair to the consumer. While these alternatively produced products may find a market as a protein alternative for consumers, to be marketed as “meat” or “beef” is inaccurate, misleading, and dishonest. I urge you to support all requests outlined in Petition number 18-01. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Ward
[REDACTED]

Karen Ward
[REDACTED]

From: Betty Wersland [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 8:54 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: Petition against fake meat

I am in support of the US Cattlemen's petition number 18-01 against fake meat. I think that you should not let them sell fake meat as real meat. You regulate us for everything, and I feel that you should regulate fake meat, and tell everybody what is in it and where it was manufactured. Thank you for your time.

Scott Wersland

From: beverly bilyeu-carkeek [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 10:46 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: fake meat

no,no, no. keep it real. this is actually a test to see if email gets delivered. if yes, you'll hear more from me.

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

From: Jackie Musgrove [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 4:39 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: manufactured beef

Dear Ms. Porretta

I am submitting this comment in opposition to the labeling of factory/laboratory 'beef' as a meat product and in support of petition No . 18-01.

It is my understanding that consideration is being given to labeling artificial or synthetic products as beef. This is extremely misleading to the consumer and totally unfair to beef producers. Just as producers have to identify GMO foods, this product needs to be given a separate designation from the traditional beef label. This product is not an natural animal. As a consumer I do not believe any artificial product should be labeled as beef. Only animals (cattle) raised from birth, grown and butchered in the traditional manner should be labeled as beef.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jackie Musgrove
Montana

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2018 9:10 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: Fake Meat

I cannot believe anybody with a right mind would think of something so ridiculous. Also I cannot believe that this has gotten this far. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.

These people don't have enough to do!!!

There is no way meat and beef can be grown in a laboratory. This has to be stopped!!!

Janet Talcott
[REDACTED]

From: Victor Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 1:09 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: Petition No. 18-01

As a cattle producer I support petition No. 18-01 to label plant produced protein with an alternative label to that of animal produced meat.

Victor
Meyer.

From: Harry Humbert [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 9:50 AM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: Petition number 18-01

Meat substitute grown in a laboratory should be labeled so that the consumer knows its origin. All food must have all ingredients listed for the consumer. Incomplete labeling is dishonesty by omission. Consumers must have complete information about products purchased to eat.
Betty Humbert

From: Wes & Jodi Miner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 6:53 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS; Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Cc: Neil Barnosky; Rick Sandru; John Hagenbarth
Subject: Petition "18-01"

Attention: Ms. Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager

Mr. Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development
Petition "18-01"

Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael,

My name is Wes Miner. I am the president of Southwest Montana Stockmen's Association (SWMSA). We represent beef cattle producers and like-minded citizens in Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, and Silver Bow Counties in Montana. Thank you for your consideration of our comments regarding Petition "18-01".

According to Second Edition of the Oxford Dictionary, the definitions of beef and meat are as follows:

Beef - flesh of the ox, bull, or cow for eating
Meat - flesh of animals (esp. mammals) as food.

SWMSA believes FSIS should require anything labeled beef or meat to fall within these definitions. SWMSA believes FSIS should prohibit products from alternative sources - such as a synthetic product from plants or other non-animal components and any products grown in labs from animal cells - from being labeled as meat. SWMSA also believes truthful and transparent labeling are both vital and necessary for both the producer and the consumer. Therefore products must be labeled accurately.

Thank you,

Wes Miner
President, Southwest Montana Stockmen's Association
PO Box 3, Lima, MT 59739
[REDACTED]

From: Johnston, Dana [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:29 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: fsis petition

To Whom It May Concern:

My family runs a cow-calf operation. I was very upset when my husband read me the article about fake meat, from the Western Ag Reporter. I am writing this letter in support of stating that the FSIS should demand and require that the definition of beef is, from cattle born, raised and harvested in the traditional manner. The issue at hand is accurately labeling all meat products and relaying correct information to the consumer.

I am a teacher and do not want to see this fake meat product served in our schools. I also teach a Consumer Science class to middle-schoolers. I am trying to inform my students about the benefits of eating beef, along with pork and chicken. I am not about to endorse fake meat.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dana Johnston

From: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 8:29 AM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: FW: Petition 18-01

Matthew Michael
Director, Issuances Staff
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
(202) 720-0345
matthew.michael@fsis.usda.gov

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From: Jill Hermiston [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2018 11:17 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: Petition 18-01

April 9, 2018

Scott County Cattlemen's Association
Scott County, Iowa

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Attention: Mr. Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development
Petition "18-01"

Dear Mr. Michael,

As cattle producers, we are very concerned about the labeling of products now entering the marketplace that are labeled "meat" and "beef". We support Petition 18-01 filed by the US Cattlemen's Association regarding the labeling of these synthetic products produced from plant, insects, and other non-animal components, and products grown in labs from animal cells. The labels of "meat" and "beef" should be limited to products which come directly from cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. These restrictions should apply to all products that may be marketed as "meat" and "beef", including products coming from other countries.

The biggest problem is marketplace confusion. Consumers need to have accurate information

when making choices for their food. They want and need truth in labeling. Labeling of any alternative protein product as "beef" or "meat" is misleading and incorrect.

We are responsible and conscientious stewards of our resources and the cattle we raise. We provide a safe and natural source of protein and other essential nutrients. Again, we feel the FSIS should require that any product labeled as "beef" come from cattle that are born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. Anything else must be labeled for what it is. If it comes from alternative sources of protein, it cannot be labeled "beef".

Scott County Cattlemen's Association
Scott County, Iowa

Jill Hermiston
Authorized Representative

From: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 8:28 AM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: FW: Petition No. 18-01

Matthew Michael
Director, Issuances Staff
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
(202) 720-0345
matthew.michael@fsis.usda.gov

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From: Victor Meyer [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2018 4:58 PM
To: Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: Petition No. 18-01

As a nutritionist I am very concerned about the labeling of lab plant produced protein being labeled meat. Complete protein of animal produced meat is made up of 23 amino acids to give the consumer the most complete protein through animal produced protein. To my knowledge there are no plants that have all 23 of those amino acids that make up a complete protein. I feel labeling of lab plant produced protein meat would be a grave disservice to the consuming public. I support petition No. 18-01

Mary Lee Meyer, teacher consultant
Stanberry, MO

From: Ryan Farm [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 9:42 PM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS; Michael, Matthew - FSIS
Subject: Petition No. 18-01

Mary and Matthew,

My name is Carolyn Ryan. I was born and raised on a cattle farm in Scott County, IA. I married a farmer in 1987, and we raised a 60 head cow/calf operation on our farm in Monroe County, IA. My husband died suddenly in 2014. I continue my 35 year teaching career, and now, with the help of a quality herd manager, I am continuing to produce a healthy, clean, and quality source of meat for the world food chain.

I am writing this letter in strong support of Petition No. 18-01. It is shocking and frightening to learn that "fake meat" is being produced by the process of extracting heart blood from fetus calves of slaughtered kill cows to obtain the stem cells that activate the growth of a combination of plant parts and insects to "grow" a product called meat. That is NOT meat. It is a synthetically produced mixture of concerning elements that is made to taste like beef. It is being labeled as "meat" and sold next to real beef in meat counters.

To be fair to consumers, it is imperative that the ONLY definition of beef should reflect a product obtained from the life cycle of a beef animal from calf through feeding and marketing at a prime weight. These true beef meats are obtained from cattle raised by producers who respect and care for their animals. Cattle producers ensure health and proper grazing and feeding of animals that are raised. Cattle feeders ensure health and clean environments for animals being fed for market. Slaughter houses are humane. Animals are unaware of their fate, and these animals serve the purpose for which they were intended. When customers see the word "beef," it can ONLY refer to products made from the flesh and muscles of REAL cows raised from calf to slaughter by REAL cattle producers who care.

Any product that is NOT BEEF should not be labeled meat OR beef. It should be labeled for what it is. Beef is a steady supply of nutrition and protein for the world food chain. Products grown in a laboratory by the process named above should not be labeled as meat and mislead the consumers. It should be labeled for what it is, listing the components and processes used to "grow" the product. Clear nutrition information should also be included on the label.

I question the fairness to consumers who buy a product thinking it is meat because it is sold in the meat section and because it can have the flavor of beef, but who are really buying a laboratory-raised product.

I am in strong support of labeling beef as only that derived from cattle, and labeling the fetal blood, insect parts, and plant components product as just that. It's right to let consumers know what they are buying and consuming.

Thank you for your consideration of this support.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Ryan



From: Linda Botts [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:42 AM
To: Porretta, Mary - FSIS
Subject: Petition # 18-01

Ms. Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager

We support the petition filed by the United States Cattlemen's Association to FSIS number 18-01, concerning the definition of beef and meat. FSIS should require that any product labeled as "beef" come from cattle that have been born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. Products derived from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells need to invent their own names or identity. Confusion occurs when these alternative products are placed next to beef in the meat case and are labeled as "beef". Any alternative protein: soy-based, vegetable-based, synthetic protein, cultured cells, etc. should not be allowed to use the terms "meat" or "beef" on their products. Additionally, the definition of "meat" should be limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner. Food products derived from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells should not be labeled as "meat." Again, these products need to create their own identity. There is need for accurate labeling and relaying correct information to consumers; the current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on alternative protein products that are not derived from livestock are misleading and inaccurate. The petition seeks to establish accurate labeling of all products and asks for clarification on what can be labeled as "beef" or "meat". Consumers should not face confusion due to misleading labeling at the meat counter. Current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on products not derived from cattle raised in the traditional manner creates confusion in the marketplace.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rodney & Linda Botts
7up Ranch
[REDACTED]

JANE WOOSTER

April 10, 2018

FSIS Docket Clerk
United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Room 2534 South Building
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700
Attention: Ms. Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager; Mr. Matthew Michael, Director,
Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development;
E-mails: Mary.Porretta@fsis.usda.gov; Matthew.Michael@fsis.usda.gov

Re: Letter in Support of the February 9, 2018 Petition to Establish Beef and Meat Labeling Requirements: To Exclude Product Not Derived Directly from Animals Raised and Slaughtered from the Definition of “Beef” and “Meat” filed by the United States Cattlemen’s Association (USCA); Petition 18-01

Dear Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael:

Our family proudly raises **Organic, Grass Fat, Verified Natural Beef**. We have all the bells and whistles. Our cattle are **Age and Source Verified, China EV, Generally Accepted Practices Level 4 Raised, Non-Hormone Treated, and Non-GMO Project Compliant**.

Aside from our personal philosophy about food safety, we engage in these programs to increase our bottom line.

In order to have a financially viable beef operation we chose to differentiate our product through labeling. The only way we could find to do that was by participating in the National Organic Program and privately run labeling programs. We have found that this is both expensive and time consuming.

We have also found that differentiating our product has increased what we get paid when our livestock gets sold.

Beef is a great product. It is tasty and nutritious. Raised as we raise it, on grass that really can be used for no other purpose, it is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Many entrepreneurs, looking for a new way to make money, are looking at beef and trying to piggy-back on our reputation, trying to use this reputation and paste it on new, not-so-nutritious, not-so-sustainable, not-so-healthy products. We think calling a soy-burger, or a ground grain red-dyed clump of food a steak is just down right dishonest.

We support the petition filed on Feb. 9, 2018, by the U.S. Cattlemen's Association (USCA) which requests the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to establish certain beef labeling requirements. In particular, **we support the petition's request that the FSIS limit the definition of "beef" to products from cattle, born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner.**

We also support the request to exclude products derived from alternative sources from being labeled as "beef," as well as the definition of "meat" being limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner.

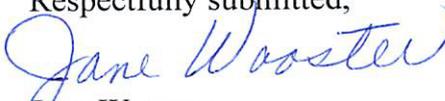
Products from plants, bugs, and products grown in the lab should not be labeled as meat.

There are currently no labeling requirements applicable to products labelled as "beef" or more broadly as "meat" mandated by law. There should be.

People deserve to know what they are eating and it is not always easy to tell. That is why there is a proliferation of privately run labeling programs. People want to know what they are eating.

I have actually had the experience of ordering a "burger" in a restaurant and practically spitting it out on my plate at the first bite. The menu didn't say it was a soy burger. I have purchased products that said "meat" only to find out they were soy. This is not fair to the consumer. This is not fair to the rancher. And it should not be allowed to continue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Wooster



From: Aryenish Birdie
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Disagree with the Cattlemen's Association petition
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:04:00 AM

Dear Ms. Porretta,

I'm writing to disagree with the Cattlemen's Association's petition. Clean meat is meat and should be labeled as meat.

Additionally, the government should support clean meat as an effort to reduce the environmental footprint of meat. As you know, the UN reported that cattle-rearing generates more greenhouse gases, as measured in CO2 equivalent, than transportation. Further, producing 1 pound of meat requires ~1000 gallons of water and results in 9 pounds of manure.

Thanks,

Aryenish Birdie

From: Kerry Froese
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#); [Michael, Matthew - FSIS](#)
Subject: FSIS Petition Number 18-01
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:22:32 PM

Dear Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Petition Number 18-01. As a proud beef producer and consumer in Colorado, I fully support this petition from the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) for rulemaking on labeling requirements for products using the words "beef" and "meat". Properly defining the words "meat" and "beef" on labels will provide truth in labeling for consumers.

Specifically, I support that the definition and use of the word "meat" should be limited to products from the tissue or flesh of animals born, raised and harvested in the traditional manner. Additionally, I support the use of the word "beef" should be limited to products from cattle born, raised and harvested in the traditional manner. Thus, alternative protein products from plants, insects or other non-animal components as well as any product grown in labs from animal cells should not be labeled as "meat" or "beef".

Defining what can be labeled as beef and meat will eliminate the current confusion for consumers and provide rules on proper labeling going forward.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kerry Froese

From: Carrie Murnion
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Meat Labeling
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:06:01 PM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

I would urge the FSIS to make a distinction between real beef and the lab fake meat. I am a rancher from Eastern Montana and we raise some of the best beef in the world. They are raised in a clean wholesome environment with good grass and clean water. I believe the American consumer deserves the best. I also think the consumer has a right to know the correct information on products that are labeled meat. If given a choice, I believe the consumer will buy real beef if given the correct information and opportunity.

Sincerely,
Colin and Carrie Murnion

From: Janet Porstmann
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: PETITION 18=01
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 3:12:03 PM

I am writing in support of petition 18-01 filed by the USCA regarding labeling of products coming into the marketplace that are similar to, but not beef. Webster's definition of "beef" is, "the flesh of a slaughtered adult bovine animal". Webster's definition of "meat" is "the flesh of animals used as food". Since these products, grown in labs from animal cells, or produced using plant, insects, and other alternative protein sources do not meet the criteria of the definitions, they cannot be labeled as "beef" or "meat".

Marketplace confusion is a major issue. The consumer deserves truth and transparency in labeling. Marketing these products as "beef" or "meat", and labeling them as such is misleading and incorrect.

I own and operate a cow/calf operation. I take very seriously my responsibility for the welfare and health of my cattle and the resources I use to produce them. My farm is one of many that is a safe beginning point of a healthy source of protein and other nutrients. Any imitations of beef produced using alternative protein sources or in a lab cannot be labeled as "beef" or "meat", they must be labeled for what they are made with.

These label restrictions need to apply to all products regardless of 'country of origin'.

Rich Porstmann


From: Ryan Farm
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Petition No. 18-01
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:56:21 PM

Dear Mary,

This is Carolyn Ryan from Melrose, Iowa again in regard to Petition No. 18-01. I know that the deadline is today, but I feel this is a gravely important petition, and I failed to represent the possible economic effects of consumer confusion due to the labeling of synthesized "meat" as "meat." I will keep this brief.

If consumers believe they are buying "meat" or beef because the laboratory-grown product is labeled as such, there will be a reduction in product demand for quality beef grown and raised conscientiously and healthily in the agricultural industry. Agriculture is one of the strongest economic backbones in the United States. The ripple-down effect of decreased demand would impact thousands, if not millions of jobs. The production of beef depends on jobs from manufacturing of equipment for processing and farming to meat-packing to transportation to retailers, and the list is beyond extensive. Fewer jobs equate to a weakened economy. This dictates that legislated proper labeling of beef as derived from flesh and tissue of animals and the labeling of synthesized "meat" as food derived from fetal calf blood, insects, and plants will maintain a healthy economic demand for beef that is definitively beef.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. Again, it is a gravely important matter and affects countless Americans in countless ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Ryan


:

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From: Janell Braun
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Petition "18-01" Define "Beef" and "Meat"
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 12:41:12 PM

To all who are responsible for defining "Beef" and "Meat", please do the right thing ! Our beef industry does not need unworthy, artificial products put in the same category as REAL meat, Real beef. It is not fair the producers or is it fair to the consumer.

We have a right to know what we are buying, and people who market real beef do not want to see some lab grown product labeled the same as beef which we have labored to bring to the market.

So, please, please....meat and Beef is a product of a live animal, not a petri dish.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Janell Braun



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: In support of United States Cattlemen's Organization petition "18-01" Definition of Meat and Beef Labeling requirements
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 1:21:01 AM

April 10,2018
Dear Ms. Porretta,

I have a family Beef farm in South-east Ohio. And in a recent meeting of our local Ohio Valley Cattlemen's Organization of over 100 active members and our Monroe County Farm Bureau of over 700 members, we discussed and are very unified against lab grown products, from the blood of a live calf fetus being designated as meat or beef!

Any number of reasons were brought forth and discussed, as follows: We ask that FSIS should limit the definition of "beef" to product from cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner.

We ask That FSIS should require that any product labeled as "beef" come from cattle that have been born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner, rather than coming from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells.

We believe that the broader definition of "meat" should also be limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner. This would similarly prohibit product from alternative sources such as a synthetic product from plant, insects, or other non-animal components and any product grown in labs from animal cells from being labeled as "meat."

We believe the requested definition of "beef" and "meat" should be applicable to all products that use or might use the designation "beef" (or "meat" when marketed as a beef product) regardless of the country of origin. In other words, the definitions should not be limited to just U.S. product.

We affirm that any alternative protein: soy-based, vegetable-based, synthetic protein, cultured cells, etc. should not be allowed to use the terms "meat" or "beef" on their products. And, That the issue at hand is accurate labeling and relaying correct information to consumers; the current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on alternative protein products that are not derived from livestock is misleading and inaccurate

We believe the petition does not seek to limit consumer choices, rather, it aims to establish accurate labeling of all products.

And after much discussion, believe the current use of terms "beef" and "meat" on products not derived from cattle raised in the traditional manner creates confusion in the marketplace!

And the Environmental claims against traditionally raised livestock are being used in marketing claims such as "clean meat"; to U.S. cattle producers, the terms "clean meat" refers to open spaces, livestock grazing on native grasses—NOT a synthetically made product that is

built in a sterile laboratory environment.

Today's U.S. cattle producers are producing more beef products on less acreage and with fewer resources than ever before; the industry remains active in advancing genetics, feed efficiency and sustainability!

And lastly, Consumers should not face any more confusion at the meat counter; products must be labeled accurately.

Thank you for your considerations... and most sincerely,

Dennis R. Ward



From: Ben Livingston
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Opposition to Petition "18-01"
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 2:40:01 PM

Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager
Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 202503700
In opposition to Petition "18-01"

This is a direct shot at the Clean Meat industry and the Plant-based meat industry. If they pass this then we will not be able to call it Clean Meat, which is absurd considering it's functionally and biologically identical to "traditional" meat. They also continuously use the word "traditional" throughout their petition, which is ironic because I would say animals raised in factory farms is not by any means traditional for humans to do!

Ben Livingston

From: christianpatrickgales
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#)
Subject: Vegan meat is still meat :)
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:56:19 AM

Please do not mislabel the obvious.

meat

met/ 

noun

1. the flesh of an animal (especially a mammal) as food.

"pieces of meat"

synonyms: [flesh](#), animal flesh

"you need to cut down on your consumption of meat"

2. *archaic*

food of any kind.

synonyms: [food](#), [nourishment](#), [sustenance](#), provisions, rations, [fare](#), foodstuff(s), [provender](#), daily bread; [More](#)

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: Jessica Edwards
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#); [Michael, Matthew - FSIS](#)
Subject: In opposition to Petition "18-01"
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:45:18 PM

Ms. Poretta and Mr. Michael,

I am a conscientious consumer in opposition of the USCA's petition to the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service to require that a product with the label "beef" or "meat" in it must come from "an animal that has been born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner."

As young scientist in the field of Biology, I am very aware of issues of food insecurity and environmental sustainability that are growing with the rapidly expanding world population. There are thousands of organizations across the world trying to increase crop yields of key agricultural products and introduce new sources of meat. Similarly to the evolution of crops through breeding techniques and genetic modification, scientists have created lab-grown meats. I think this is a natural progression of science and technology to meet the demands of our ever-changing world and growing population.

While I agree that consumers should be informed about the contents and origin of their meat, I don't believe that plant-grown or lab-grown meats should be stripped of the title, "meat", entirely. As we all know, the title of a food product is critically important in consumer marketing, and our nation should support, not discriminate against, the development of alternative meat production methods.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Edwards, B.S. Biology, M.D. Candidate '22

From: Nathan Edwards
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#); [Michael, Matthew - FSIS](#)
Subject: In opposition to Petition 18-01
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:03:54 PM

Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager
Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 202503700
Petition “18-01”

Dear Ms. Porretta and Mr. Michael,

I do not agree with the United States Cattle Association’s (USCA) petition requesting that the Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) require a label indicating a product is “beef” be limited only to cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. In addition, I do not agree that FSIS should require the labeling of “meat” to be restricted only to animal tissue or flesh of an animal born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. The manner in which we create meat has drastically and continuously changed over the past 100 years. The “traditional” manner on raising beef and other livestock would be considered pasture-raised on a family owned farm, with no antibiotics or hormones fed to the animals. This is what humans have done for nearly 10,000 years. Only in the 1900’s did we first begin the industrial factory farms that now constitute approximately 99% of the meat consumed in the United States (1). Factory farms were a necessary change in livestock farming if we were to meet the growing populations demand for meat in the United States. In order to meet this demand we began fundamentally changing the way we produce livestock in order to raise thousands of animals in a confined area, which was once impossible without the discovery of antibiotics. This massive shift in farming did not require a change in what is labeled “beef” or “meat”, because that would have just further confused consumers. This same situation is happening again; we have a growing demand for meat and are finding new ways to meet that demand with products like Clean Meat. The USCA’s goal seems to be to best inform the public on the meat they are purchasing, which I agree is a great idea. Instead, we can have a descriptor word before “beef” or “meat” on the market. For example, if the meat being purchased comes from pasture-raised livestock with no antibiotics or hormones fed to the animals then it could be labeled “Traditional Meat”. If the meat being purchased comes from a industrial factory farm, it could be labeled “Factory Meat”. If the meat being purchased comes from the cells of an animal, but are raised outside of the animal, then it could be labeled “Clean Meat”. If the meat being purchased comes from plant-based proteins and nutrients then it could be labeled “Plant-based Meat”. These distinctions are important to create a more informed consumer. All of these “meat” products serve the same function, just as “Factory Meat” served the same function as its predecessor “Traditional Meat” when it replaced it decades ago. “Clean Meat”, on a cellular and molecular level, is both functionally and biologically identical to both “Traditional Meat” and “Factory Meat”. With an honest descriptor word before the label of “beef” or “meat” there is no reason to believe that consumers will have any trouble distinguishing between what meat came from where or how it was produced.

Thank you for your time,



Nathan Edwards

1.

<https://www.aspca.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare>

From: Renee Merchel
To: [Porretta, Mary - FSIS](#); [Michael, Matthew - FSIS](#)
Subject: Letter In Opposition to Petition "18-01"
Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018 1:13:40 PM

Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager
Matthew Michael, Director, Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 202503700
In opposition to Petition "18-01"

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the petition (Petition 18-01) which seeks to ban the use of the word "meat" in describing items which have the same chemical make-up as slaughtered live animals; yet were not bred, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the same manner as is common practice today.

This petition is an obvious preemptive attack on the growing plant-based foods industry. It is not, and should not, be the position of the U.S. government to enact standards which negatively impact the free market when there is an absence of benefit to the public.

The petition claims that the purpose of this regulation would be for the benefit of informing consumers. If it is true that there are no labelling requirements for "beef" or "meat" products, then there is indeed an area which can use regulation to improve transparency to the consumer. However, the solution should not be to restrict the usage of a common English word, beef, but rather to ensure that proper descriptors are included on all packaging.

Descriptive adjectives such as "clean meat", "synthetic meat", and "lab gown meat" are obvious to the average consumer. In addition, descriptors such as "slaughtered meat" or "animal grown meat" would be obvious descriptors to consumers who are interested in purchasing the items which are common in the marketplace today. These descriptors, as well as proof of identical chemical make-up are enough to ensure the consumer's safety for these advanced meat products.

We as Americans are an inventive, entrepreneurial, and resourceful people. The technology by which we generate common products and foods are constantly being improved to be less expensive, healthier, and better for our environment. Governmental regulation should not be used to stifle this process, but rather empower it.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to oppose Petition 18-01 for its biased proposed solution to a labelling issue in an ever-changing and evolving market.

Sincerely,

Renée Merchel
U.S. Citizen from Denver, CO