



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

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

JUN - 8 2016

Ms. Dena M. Jones  
Farm Animal Program Manager  
Animal Welfare Institute  
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20003

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the May 26, 2016, letter that you submitted on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) expressing concern about the length of time and the conditions under which birds are held before they are slaughtered in official poultry slaughter establishments. In your letter, you state that FSIS must revise its regulations to prohibit behavior that has the potential to cause birds to die other than by slaughter. You also state that FSIS should revise its directive on ante-mortem poultry inspection to include actions that inspection personnel may take in situations of suspected animal neglect or cruelty. According to your letter, FSIS has a responsibility to contact appropriate State officials when the Agency believes that animal neglect or cruelty may have occurred so that the State can investigate for potential prosecution under State anti-cruelty law.

Because your letter requests that FSIS revise both its regulations and directives, your request is being considered as a petition for rulemaking and policy change under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 16-05. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and 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,

Charles E. Williams  
Director  
Issuances Staff  
Office of Policy and Program Development