



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

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

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

FEB 11 2016

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition that you submitted on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) dated January 2016. The petition requests that FSIS promulgate labeling regulations under the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA)(21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*) to define “free range” (and the equivalent terms “range grown” and “free roaming”) for use in the labeling of poultry products. The petition includes suggested requirements for the outdoor living conditions of the birds raised for the free-range label claim, as well as for the FSIS approval process for the claim. As an alternative to initiating rulemaking, the petition requests that FSIS update its free-range guidance document to reflect the changes requested in the petition.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition 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 16-01. 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