



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

SEP 24 2015

Mr. Bruce G. Friedrich
Policy Director
Farm Sanctuary
6525 N. Capitol St. NE
Washington DC 20012

Dear Mr. Friedrich:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the September 1, 2015, petition that you submitted on behalf of Farm Sanctuary and several other animal welfare advocacy organizations. The petition requests that FSIS take the following actions:

1. Amend 9 CFR part 500 to provide that FSIS “will” issue at least a Noncompliance Record (NR) for all violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA);
2. Amend 9 CFR part 313 to codify the definition of “egregious” violations of the HMSA as defined in FSIS Directive 6900.2, rev.2;
3. Amend 9 CFR part 500 to provide that FSIS “will” issue a Notice of Suspension for all “egregious” violations of the HMSA;
4. Amend 9 CFR part 500 to require that all intentional cruelty, as well as especially egregious and reckless abuse, be referred for criminal prosecution; and
5. Amend 9 CFR part 500 to provide FSIS with a timeline for withdrawal proceedings based on repetitive HMSA violations.

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 15-01. 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>

Mr. Friedrich

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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 cursive script that reads "Charles E. Williams".

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