

INDEPENDENT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS, INC.

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April 9, 2018

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

ATTN: Ms. Mary Porretta and Mr. Matthew Michael
Office of Policy and Program Development
Petition 18-01

Rulemaking for Definition of "meat" and "Beef"

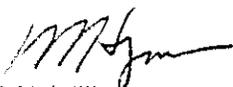
The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICAT), an organization of over 8,000 ranchers, strongly supports the rulemaking proposal to define "meat" and "beef". We applaud the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) as they attempt to eliminate confusion that would result when fake meat products are labeled "meat" or "beef".

ICAT believes that the definition of "meat" should be limited to the tissue or flesh of animals that have been harvested in the traditional manner. ICAT also supports a definition of "beef" to products from cattle born, raised, and harvested in the traditional manner. The definitions should be for all meat and beef products regardless of country of origin.

Synthetic protein, soy-based protein, cultured cells and vegetable based products are not "meat" or "beef" and should never be allowed to be labeled, advertised or sold as such. American consumers deserve to have their products labeled accurately and there should be no confusion at the retail meat counter or restaurant. As we Texas ranchers continue to strive to produce the safest and highest quality "beef" and "meat", there should never be a fake interloper in our market.

Thanking you in advance for your interest and subsequent action in this matter.

Sincerely,



W. V. 'Bill' Hyman
Executive Director
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas