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Chief, Standardization Branch,
Livestock and Seed Program
AMS, USDA, Room 2603-S, Stop 0254
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0254

To Whom It May Concern:

As a producer of lean, drug-free beef for Laura's Lean Beef I meet and exceed strict standards for raising cattle without antibiotics and growth hormones as dictated by the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The USDA proposed regulations would allow commodity beef to be labeled and marketed in the same fashion without being held to the same exacting specifications as mine.

It seems very clear that to advertise residue testing is deceptive and most certainly confuse the consumer. And if consumers think all of these claims mean the same thing, then the USDA will regulate my meticulous raising practices out of existence. That wouldn't serve consumers and would hurt many producers such as myself who are willing to commit to the rigorous program that Laura's Lean Beef requires in order to obtain USDA approval for its product claims. Since all producers must not exceed residue levels, couldn't just about anyone make a "no residue" claim?

I heartily encourage the American Marketing Service to not water down the standard by allowing residue claims on the label because consumers deserve labeling that is clear and meaningful. If USDA does weaken the rules, a large flood of "no residue" labels will reach unsuspecting consumers who believe, mistakenly, that they are buying meat that comes from cattle that are raised without antibiotics and growth hormones.

Respectively Yours,



Dwayne Vig
Owner and Operator