



26 March 2003

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

RE: Docket Number LS-02-02 concerning Meat Marketing Claims

4201 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
206-547-1222
206-545-7151 fax
farmlandfund@pccsea.com
www.PCCNaturalMarkets.com



The mission of the
PCC Farmland Fund is to
secure and preserve
threatened farmland in
Washington State and move
it into organic production.

I am writing as director of the PCC Farmland Fund, a non-profit land trust working to save threatened farmland from development and keep it in organic production.

I am concerned about the proposed USDA meat marketing labeling claims and standards.

The proposed claims could undermine the integrity of the labels they seek to define, mislead consumers, and have a devastating affect on small and mid-sized farmers who pioneered the practices they represent.

I am also concerned that USDA did not take the time to consult small family farmers, consumers, animal treatment and environmental groups before drafting the proposed standards, and instead conferred primarily with large-scale, industrial agricultural interests.

Please withdraw the proposed meat marketing labeling standards. Start over with a more extensive and inclusive process. Those who care deeply about purchasing grass-fed, free-range, and antibiotic-free meat want USDA claims to match what these terms mean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jody Alfesan
President and Operating Officer