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Stoughton, WI 53589

March 27, 2003

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

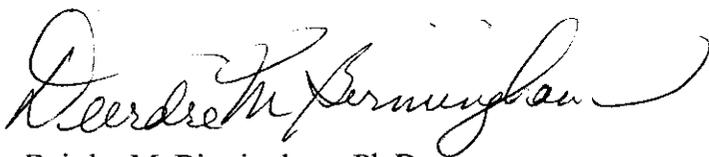
RE: Docket Number LS-02-02 concerning Meat  
Marketing Claims

I am a consumer and farm owner with deep concerns about my ability to purchase properly labeled grass-fed (not grain finished), free-range, and antibiotic free meat and poultry products. I would like the USDA labeling to meet the claims and understanding that consumers like me have of these products.

Since I do not find that the proposed marketing claims and standards meet consumer expectations I urge the AMS of the USDA to withdraw the proposed claims and to start over again. I urge you to consult closely with the diverse organizations representing family farms, consumers, humane, and environmental causes before issuing a final proposal.

As a new farmer and as a consumer of organic, free-range and antibiotic free meats and poultry particularly from small, local, family farms, I would like to see standards for these labels that ensure consumer confidence and provide me as a new farmer with an important value-added market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deirdre M. Birmingham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Deirdre M. Birmingham, Ph.D.