

Petaluma Poultry Processors, Inc.  
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## USDA PROPOSED RULE WEAKENS ORGANIC STANDARDS AND THREATENS "NON ORGANIC" ECO-LABELS

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) recently held public meetings in Washington, DC, and Newark, CA to discuss problems with the USDA proposed rule on organic standards. OTA committees reported numerous violations of well established organic principles and industry standards, and concluded that the proposed rule may not allow accurate and verifiable "non organic" eco-labeling claims on food products.

### PETALUMA POULTRY PROCESSORS SUPPORTS HIGH ORGANIC STANDARDS

Petaluma Poultry Processors (PPP) shares OTA's concerns about the serious overarching flaws in the NOP proposed rule, and PPP is asking *for your support* to help stop the implementation of weak organic standards. The public comment period on the USDA proposed rule will end on April 30, 1998, and we need your comments to impress on USDA that consumers do not want weak organic standards and restrictive labeling policies that limit the consumer's right to know what is in their food. Tell the USDA that:

- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO'S); municipal sludge; and irradiated foods are not acceptable in organic food production systems.
- Legitimate use of verifiable non organic eco-labeling claims such as "raised without antibiotics", "free range", and "humanely raised", are useful and important sources of information that consumers need to help them make informed choices about the food products they purchase.
- You support the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations on organic standards that were submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture.

If you do not act now, USDA will establish weak organic food labeling standards. The organic label will lose its meaning, and consumers will no longer be able to rely on the integrity of organically certified food products. Send your comments to:

**Mail Comments To:**

Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator  
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room 4007-S  
Ag Stop 0275  
P.O. Box 96456  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

**Fax Comments To:**

(202) 690-4632

**E-mail Comments To:**

National Organic Program  
web site on the internet at:  
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>

**OR return this form with your signature by mail or fax to above address or fax number.**

I fully support High Organic Standards, and the use of verifiable non organic eco-labeling claims so that I can make informed food purchases. I also support the positions stated above.

Name:

Address:

Signature: