

From: E.Marchiselli [semarch9@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 9:20 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: poultry industry

Dear Ms.Benham...Please do what you can to prevent this industry from getting labeled `organic` when there are such inhumanely crowded conditions and such high use of antibiotics on their products...thank you...Sincerely,Susan Marchiselli,RN,Clearwater,Florida

From: Andrea Kozil [andreasher_2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 9:16 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic label

Dear Ms. Benham,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to prohibit the factory farming industry to adopt the use of the term "organic" to label their products. For those of us who choose to purchase only organically grown or produced products, this sort of labelling is incredibly deceitful. Factory farms use antibiotics, raise the animals in deplorable conditions, and there is no humane factor whatsoever about the treatment of animals.

Please do not let the retm organic become diluted by the toxic factory farm industry. Doing so would simply be an action coaxed by money and votes...not facts, ethics or popular demand.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kozil 7830 SE Grant, Portland OR 97215

From: Holtz, Barbara [BarbaraHoltz@paulhastings.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 2:19 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: The poultry issue

I write to ask that you DENY the organic label to factory farms. The poultry industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: Betty Macpherson [seedandsage@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2002 11:30 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Meat Label

Dear Katherine,

I am writing in order to express my desire that factory farms that use inhumane treatment and rely on excessive antibiotic use for producing meat be denied the ability to label their products "organic". Clearly, this is not the case. Not only is this intentionally misleading to consumers, it is impermissible.

Sincerely,
Betty Macpherson
San Diego, CA

From: Bryan (038) Carla Wilson [ruvegan@cfl.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2002 7:05 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: URGENT!

Importance: High

To whom it may concern:

My family is writing to you from Winter Springs Florida urging you to DENY the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label

Thank you

The Wilson family

From: b soltis [bsoltis3@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 5:10 AM
To: Benham, Katherine

Dear Ms. Benham,

As a concerned citizen I strongly urge you to deny the "organic" label to factory farms. Heavy reliance on antibiotics and inhumane treatment can NEVER be considered as organic farming.

Thank you, B Soltis
bsoltis3@yahoo.com

From: Carol Stewart [stewartcarol@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 5:35 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic standards

Dear Ms. Benham,

I would appreciate seeing the "organic" label applied only to animals that are humanely treated.

Sincerely,

Carol Stewart
From: Christina Babst [seamusminnie@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 1:19 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: request

Katherine Benham
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP

Dear Katherine Benham,

Please deny the "organic" label to factory farms.
Animals are kept in terrible cramped conditions, beaks but off, pumped full of antibiotics.
Visit one the these concentration camps for animals and it has nothing to do
with "organic".
I am counting on your help.

Sincerely,

Christina Babst
728 N. Doheny Drive
W. Hollywood, CA 90069

From: Civitas [civitas@linkny.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 5:08 PM
To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: organic standards vs factory farms

Dear Ms. Benham,

Please do not allow organic standards to be minimalized by allowing products from intensively raised animals with no access to the outdoors to be labeled as organic.

The public pays a premium, in most cases, for organic foods because they consider them to be healthier. There is nothing healthy about intensively confined animals even if, as seems unlikely, they are not dosed with antibiotics.

Sincerely,
Bina Robinson
POB 26
Swain NY 14884

From: Cynthia Martinez [martinezcyn@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 12:17 PM

To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: "organic" labeling

Dear Katherine,

I am writing to you to express my concern over the possible misuse of the "Organic" labeling which I trust and use to buy safe and animal friendly products for my family. It is my understanding that factory farms thrive on the overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems and I feel that an industry like this has no business using the "organic" label. Please deny them the opportunity to do this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Martinez-Edgar
Mom in Maine

From: David or Carol Lippe [lippesjt@gte.net]

Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 8:29 AM

To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: FW: Petition Alert from Jennifer Martinez

For your info:

I don't know where these guys come from. they get everyone all riled up about something that is not well thought out and appeal to good peoples emotions who carelessly volunteer for a cause whthouot checking with their head before enlisting.

I have never eaten a live chicken and don't know how can be killed in preparation for eating without killing it! Of course it is inhumane! But chickens are not humane!

I wonder how many of these people are eating the chicken very often that couldn't be eating them if it weren't for the antibiotics that are necessary to raise the quantity of healthy chickens necessary for their food supply. I wonder how many would be 'bitching' about the cost increass if all chickens had to be rasied in the clinics of their minds!

In the strictest sense commercial raise chickens are not truly organic unless they came from a farmyard where they are scratching around in 'cow do' and other barnyard animals like they do on a old fashioned farm! "On-the-farm" they would get their nourishment from waste by products form other animals waste "products" in addition to chicken mash that supplements their feed supply.

These petitioners need to get a grip and get educated on a real farm before signing this kind of tripe! I would love to testify in the industry's behalf. I have no chicken farm, don't raise 'em, don't own stock in anything that I know of that supports the industry in any other than buying chickens to eat at the grocery store.

Ok, I added my 'counter' two cents in. Carry on!

David Lippe
114 Tyler Terrace
San Angelo, TX 76905

From: search4des10e@yahoo.com [mailto:search4des10e@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 10:23 PM
To: lippesjt@gte.net
Subject: Petition Alert from Jennifer Martinez

Dear Friends,certain companies want to deceive you about the quality of meat that you feed your family. I have just read and signed the petition: Don't Let the Poultry Industry Hijack Organic Standards <http://www.thePetitionSite.com/takeaction/680155948> Please help by signing this petition. It takes 30 seconds and will really help. Please follow this link: The system centralizes signature collection to provide consolidated, useful reports for petition authors and targets. Please forward this email to others you believe share your concern. To view additional petitions, please click here:

<http://www.thePetitionSite.com> Thank you Jennifer Total
Signatures: 480

The most recent signatures* as of 8:23 PM PDT May 03, 2002

480 5/03/02 8:04 PM G. Wyzga, Lincroft, NJ, US
479 5/03/02 7:46 PM Anonymous, Houston, TX, US
478 5/03/02 7:33 PM Stephanie Vandygriff, Mishawaka, IN, US

477 5/03/02 7:20 PM Michael Hall, Tucson, AZ, US
476 5/03/02 7:17 PM Greg Russo, Reading, MA, US
475 5/03/02 7:16 PM Frances Patch, Takoma Park, MD, US
474 5/03/02 7:11 PM Lonny J. Cargill, Willits, CA, US
473 5/03/02 7:05 PM Bonnie Gardhouse, Toronto, CA
472 5/03/02 7:04 PM Bonnie Gardhouse, Toronto, CA
471 5/03/02 7:00 PM Betty Ann Altman, Bartow, FL, US
470 5/03/02 6:58 PM Molly Hamilton, Middletown, NY, US
469 5/03/02 6:53 PM Anonymous, Swoklahoma, OK, US
468 5/03/02 6:51 PM Anonymous, Saratoga, CA, US
467 5/03/02 6:49 PM Sarah Campen, Sitka, AK, US
466 5/03/02 6:37 PM Anonymous, Hamburg, PA, US
465 5/03/02 6:29 PM Marcia Cummings, Waterford, MI, US
464 5/03/02 6:17 PM Margaret Wilson, Kuranda, AU
463 5/03/02 6:17 PM Anonymous, El Cerrito, CA, US
462 5/03/02 6:07 PM Pat Shaskin, East Hartford, CT, US
461 5/03/02 6:01 PM Kristina Ruggles, Lexington, KY, US
460 5/03/02 5:32 PM John Payne, Bedford, IN, US
459 5/03/02 5:18 PM Missy Schmitt, Indianapolis, IN, US
458 5/03/02 4:31 PM Dan Hills, Valdosta, GA, US
457 5/03/02 4:22 PM Anonymous, Corvallis, OR, US
456 5/03/02 4:08 PM Erin Farr, Heuvelton, NY, US

To add your name you MUST use the PetitionSite.com web form located here:

<http://www.thePetitionSite.com/takeaction/680155948>

*Signers may choose to hide their identity to the public. Such names will appear as "Anonymous" on the PetitionSite.com and advocacy emails similar to this. (The signature number above may not match the number assigned to your signature on the first page of the petition.) To view additional petitions, please click here:

<http://www.thePetitionSite.com>

From: Debby Taylor [wildwhiskers@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 11:41 AM

To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: The organic label and factory farms

Dear Ms. Benham -

I am writing in regards to the National Organic Standards Board meeting to determine national standards for organic poultry. I am very concerned because large factory farms are fighting to have their businesses certified as "organic". These corporations promote cruel and abusive conditions for animals, and have no right to the "organic" label. They are known for overuse of antibiotics, and inhumane confinement conditions. This is a ploy on the part of big business to appear humane and compassionate to the consumer, while truly continuing to practice horrid methods of animal "care". It is an utter disgrace that the National Organic Standards Board Livestock Committee has even allowed a representative from industrial "factory farm"

producers onto the Committee. Please do not allow the factory farming system to gain even more strength and allow more animals to suffer immensely.

Sincerely,

Debby Taylor
19917 19th Ave N.E. #A
Shoreline, WA 98155

From: Deniz [deniz_b@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2002 6:02 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: USDA/APHIS application (56228-EUP-O)

We strongly urge the NOSB Livestock Committee to deny the use of the organic label to factory farms. The use of the term organic by factory farms would be fraudulent and would be used to intentionally mislead the public. If the NOSB does not uphold the highest standards for the use of the term organic consumers will no longer find value in the NOSB approved terminology and will be forced to rely on nonprofits that do not put corporate interests before those of the consumers.

The factory farming industry is trying to use the organic label for chickens raised in extremely inhumane, factory farming conditions and continues to use antibiotic and pesticide feed.

Consumers are willing to pay higher prices for organic products because of the improved standards associated with organic production, including no hormones, pesticides, humane conditions, etc.

As the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Livestock Committee meets to establish national standards for organic poultry, we urge you to put the consumer before the giant corporations that are intensively lobbying the Board to allow their industrialized factories to be certified as organic!

We trust you will put consumers interests before corporate interests. Thank you.

Deniz Bolbol
Madeline Rople
California, CA

From: Donna Gurr [dygurr@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 1:38 PM
To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: DENY the organic label to factory farms

I am writing to urge you to DENY the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and cruel and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label. This is be a contradiction in terms and a ploy on the American Consumer!

Most Sincerely,
Donna Gurr
Federal Way, WA

From: Elizabeth Schauer [erschaue@adams.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2002 11:10 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic labeling

I urge you to keep integrity in the organic labeling process for food. This label SHOULD NOT go to factory farms. The overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement negates everything that the organic label is supposed to stand for.

Thank you,
Dr. Elizabeth Schauer

From: Elkes99@aol.com%inter2 [Elkes99@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 10:14 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: DENY ORGANIC LABEL TO FACTORIES

Dear Mrs Benham:

I am writing to urge you to DENY the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label.

Sincerely,
Elke Schwarz
211-B Second St NW
Charlottesville, VA 22902

From: Amanda Vikre [mintyalv@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 5:32 PM
To: Benham, Katherine

Hello. My name is Amanda Vikre and I am a student at The Ohio State University. I am writing to you to ask you to deny the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the organic label. Thank you very much for your time.

Amanda Vikre

From: XeniaB@aol.com%inter2 [XeniaB@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 12:29 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Concerns on a distortion of truth -- factory farming...

...is not an organic practice and should not delude others into thinking it is. Don't be a part of the lie.

Please deny the labeling of food products as organic when they are products of the factory farming system. In humane practices in raising and harvesting food animals violates the true concept of organic. Don't add to the confusion of others by labeling such foods as oraginc. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Make a real impact on food quality by reforming factory farming practices toward a more humanitarian practice.

Sincerely,
Valerie Bennett
Orlando, FL

From: Georgeann Dellinger [rjd702@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 12:21 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Standards

Dear Ms. Benham:

I pay a premium to buy organic produce, milk, vegetables, eggs, and other products because it's worth it to me to know that I am not serving my family foods that contain antibiotics, growth hormones, etc. It is equally important to me to support the humane production of food. Factory farms do not fit this picture in any way, and their attempts to portray themselves any other way are completely outrageous and duplicitous. The organic label **MUST NOT** be allowed to be used by factory farms. Factory farms are harmful to the environment, brutal to animals, and **MUST BE DENIED** the organic label.

Mrs. Ronald J. Dellinger

702 Cutler Lane
Hudson, OH 44236

From: Glenn Cronick [nature6566@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 8:29 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Factory Farms?

Hello,

I am writing because I do not believe it is wise to label factory farms as raising organic chickens. I think that factory farms, with their history of inhumane treatment, use of toxic chemicals in feed and injections has little credibility in using the term organic.

Thus, I ask you to deny their request to use this term.

Thank you,

Glenn Cronick
208 Maryland Ave
Staten Island, New York 10305

From: Holly Fraser [atmescence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 12:08 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic labeling...

Please accept this email as proof of further opinion that the organic labeling of poultry products raised in factory farm conditions is not acceptable. The organic label must continue to be one that truly represents a more humane means of producing food. If these lines become further blurred, not only will millions more animals suffer unjustly, but the safety and health of humans will become further jeopardized as well.

Thanks Kindly,

Holly Fraser

From: Horseinc@aol.com%inter2 [Horseinc@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 9:52 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: "organic" does have a meaning

Chicken raised inhumanely at America's factory farms are NOT organic. Please do not let the use of Organic be misused.

Cheryl Flanagan
Cumming, GA

From: Hugh Dorigo [hdorigo@cox.net]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 12:58 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: confinement factories and organic labels

It will be not only a disgrace, but an injustice to the American consumer if the meat industry gets it's way and contaminates the organic standards for food production in this country. As I am sure you are aware, companies such as Tyson foods, Conagra and others have influenced legislations for far too long. The filth and cruelty used to raise animals in confinement operations is not healthy for the animals nor the American consumer. Overwhelming scientific research is available on this subject. Do not allow any of these companies operating "factory farms" to sell their diseased products teaming with a host of bacteria's, antibiotics, hormones, arsenic and various forms of cancer and pneumonia with an organic label. If the organic label is awarded to these factory operators, it will become as meaningless as the Humane Slaughter Act. I hope you have the integrity it will take to stand up and do what is right for the consumers you represent.

Hugh Dorigo

From: Janet L. Morris [catlady259@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 12:40 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: DENY organic label to factory farms

Katherine Benham:

I am writing in response to the organic label and what it stands for. Factory farming should not be allowed to use the label organic on their products. They over use antibiotics and the chickens are kept in INHUMANE conditions. When I buy organic, I know that the animal has been fed wholesome foods and are raised in humane conditions. To me, this would be an out right lie to the public and people who buy organic foods. They should not be fooled into buying something they would normally not buy. If you are going to use the organic label so freely then please also label that these animals have been fed antibiotics and have been rasied in a factory farm. Lets be 100 % honest and not try to deceive the public.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Morris

From: Jim Gosack [ajgosack@rconnect.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 8:19 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Label
PleaDear Ms. Benham,

I am sending this note to ask that you DENY the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Gosack
1005 Greenleaf Court
Northfield, MN
55057

From: joviann mech [joviann@salonsystems.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 4:55 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic standards

I am begging you NOT to use the "organic" label on factory farmed chickens. These chickens are raised in inhumane, cruel and unhealthy environments. It is the right of people to consume poultry that is humanely raised, free from hormones and anti-biotics. People should have a right to know what is in their food. So many meats are pumped full of medicine, hormones and anti-biotics so the animals grow faster and fatter. Many antibiotics people take for diseases no longer work because of the resistance their bodies have built up after consuming so many from meat.

We need honest, humane and accurate standards for "organic" foods. Please protect the consumers, not big business!

Thank you-
joviann mech
Wisconsin

From: Juanita Copeland [copelandj@decorp.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 2:28 PM
To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: Please deny the Organic label to the Factory Farms

I am writing to respectfully plea for you to refuse the factory farmers the right to use the "organic" label on their chicken products. If allowed to do so, it would be a great travesty, not to mention deceptive advertising as these animals are far from Organic!

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Juanita Copeland
Nashville, TN

From: jrmonroe [jrmonroe@turbonet.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 9:46 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic standards
Dear Ms. Benham:

According to the Humane Society of the United States, representatives from industrial poultry corporations are lobbying the National Organic Standards Board to be certified as organic producers. I don't understand how an industry based on the use of antibiotics and inhumane methods of growing and slaughter can be genuinely interested in providing consumers organic products. Rather, it appears to me that the industrial food production industry, whose methods are inherently inhumane and damaging to the environment, is willing to lie to consumers and make a sham of the label of "organic." As you know, there are producers in this country who have dedicated themselves to true organic production; please don't let their efforts be in vain.

Thank-you,
Julie Monroe
611 East Third Street
Moscow ID 83843

From: JULIO COLINO [jcolino@ig.com.br]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 11:21 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Prezada Senhora

Pela presente venho solicitar o cadastramento de nossos dados para o envio consecutivo de quaisquer noticias, eventos, cursos, revista/livros.

Atuamos no segmento de Extensao Rural como ONG- Organizacao nao governamental.

acesse;

www.grupos.com.br/grupos/campos.gerais

Julio COLINO
Instituto agricola campos gerais

r; 12 de outubro, 305 -centro
84010400 - Ponta Grossa/PR
BRAZIL
jcolino@ig.com.br

From: brandon keith [bigdaddybranbran@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 6:21 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: 'Organic Foods'

To whom it may concern:

I strongly urge you, for the safety of all people and animals, please DENY any factory farm using cruel industrial techniques of food production the right of using the label "ORGANIC". "ORGANIC" foods are consumed by people who wish to not eat foods produced with hormones, antibiotics, or pesticides. For the USDA to approve the Industrial/ Factory Farm use of the "Organic" label would be the ultimate corporate sell out of OUR government and it's bureaucracy.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE: "DO NOT LET CORPORATE FACTORY FARMS USE THE LABEL ORGANIC ON THEIR HARMFUL PRODUCTS!"

Sincerely, Brandon Keith
PO BOX 7521
St. Petersburg, FL 33734

From: Kamp, Kevin (FAORAP) [Kevin.Kamp@fao.org]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 9:23 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic standards for wild fish

As a bit of an outsider on the issue of certification of wild fish (particularly salmon) of being organic, and it's relationship to fish meal, it seems quite clear that if wild fish cannot be certified as being organic, then aquaculture products derived from wild fish products cannot either. And if Alaskan wild salmon cannot be certified as organic, what possibly can?

Having said this, fishmeal derived from the waters in many countries (like Thailand where I live) certainly needs to be viewed with a certain amount of caution.....and testing. Where the fishmeal originates is important in this argument.

Kevin Kamp
FAO

Bangkok

From: Kim [kriter.girl@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 9:56 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic

Hello,
Please deny factory farms the use of the organic label. They inflict much pain and suffering and should not be allowed to mislead the public as well. Thank you.

Kim Intino
2101 Calremont Terrace
Utica, NY 13501

From: Kim Ostop [kstop@netzero.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 12:08 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: NOSB chicken decision

Dear Ms. Benham,

It is my understanding that the National Organics Standards Board Livestock Committee might grant poultry factory-farms the right to describe their products as "organic." I question the rationality of such a decision. Perhaps the Committee's definition of "organic" does not rule out the inhumanity and filth of overcrowded livestock, but oughtn't it to rule out the use of antibiotics and non-organic feed? Like people, chickens are what they eat (and get shot up with) - and if those things can't pass as organic, then neither should the chickens.

I strongly urge the NOSB Livestock Committee to reserve the label "organic" for those products that truly are, no matter how desperately their competition may wish to corner the market.

Thank you.

From: Kim Warren [kwarren@attglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 4:16 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: poultry farms

I am writing to urge you to protect the integrity of standards for organically raised food by denying factory farms permission to use the organic label. I understand that large corporate poultry farms are seeking to use the organic label. These giant farms rely on

heavy use of antibiotics and confine the animals in inhumane conditions. These practices are the antithesis of what the word "organic" should mean.

I buy organic food, and organically raised poultry and eggs; I rely on you to make that label truly meaningful -- indicating protection of the animals and the environment.

Thank you for your efforts,
Kimberly Warren
Durham, NC

From: LKSmithson@aol.com%inter2 [LKSmithson@aol.com] on behalf of LKSmithson@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 5:28 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: public comment

Hello,
Regarding the NOSB Livestock Committee:

As a consumer of organic foods, I ask that you please do not allow factory farms to use the organic label. Consumers need something they can count on. The organic label is associated with humaneness, and we need to feel confident that humane standards are strong and enforced. Factory farms do not have animal welfare in mind. They use cruel methods of raising animals to increase their profits, and consumers who learn about those methods are appalled. If animals on organic farms "must be maintained under conditions which provide for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress," then factory farms cannot qualify.

Also, please make sure all wording is specific enough, such as "provide for adequate exercise, freedom of natural movement," etc. And "reduction of

stress" should be significant, since many food animals today suffer incredible stress.

Once again, please keep humaneness a vital aspect of organic farming. We cannot allow greed to cause animal suffering.

Thank you so much and have a great day!

From: Lynette.C.Dumont@ual.com%inter2 [Lynette.C.Dumont@ual.com] on behalf of Lynette.C.Dumont@ual.com
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 11:09 AM
To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: NOSB

Dear Ms. Benham,

I urgently request that factory farms not be given sign-off as organic. It just doesn't make sense. The current standard is precisely why I buy organic vs. factory farmed.

Sincerely,
Lynette Dumont
13990 Crabapple Road
Golden, Co 80401

From: Malcolm Kenton [malcolmke@triad.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 7:28 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Don't Let the Poultry Industry Fool You

Dear Ms. Benham,

I urge you not to let the poultry industry get away with the scandalous act of having its product certified as organic. The factory farms that a vast majority of US chickens are raised on are the opposite of organic. They are horrid, putrid environments where chickens are crammed wing-to-wing, unable to flap their wings, move around a lot, or have access to sunlight and fresh air. The labeling of chicken meat produced in these squalid factory farms as organic would signify unsettling demolition or organic standards.

The factory farming industry's attempt at creating an illusion of humaneness and good health is outrageous and disingenuous. If allowed, it will only strengthen an industry that does immeasurable harm to animals and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration and action. I would appreciate a written response informing me of the actions you have taken on this issue.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Kenton
52 Park Village Ln.
Greensboro, NC 27455
malcolmke@triad.rr.com

From: Marianne Freidberg [nannigrund@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 11:09 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Standards

Dear Ms. Benham:

I strongly oppose the use of the label "organic" to products of factory farming.

To allow factory farms with their abusive and inhumane treatment and confinement of animals and their known application of antibiotics to use this label would make a mockery of the concept of organic food production. As a consumer seeking out organic products when food shopping for my family I want to be certain that the label "Organic" means what it is intended to mean, i. e., originating from healthy and humane agriculture!! Please help preserve the concept for the future of our children!!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Marianne G. Freidberg
and family

From: Michael Wylie [mdwylie@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 10:24 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Factory Farms Are NOT Organic

Ms. Benham,

Please do not allow factory farms to be assigned an "Organic" designation.

You know well that factory farms use large amounts of drug on their animals and keep them in horrible conditions.

Thank you.

Michael and Nancy Wylie
1200 7th St.
Novato, CA 94945

WE VOTE

From: michelle(a)giansante.net [michelle@giansante.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 8:48 AM

To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Labels on Poultry

Dear Ms. Benham,

As the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Livestock Committee meets soon to establish national standards for organic poultry, I am writing to ask you to deny the organic label to factory farms.

An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label. According to the Humane Society of the United States, "Factory farming industry members are trying to usurp the 'organic' label and use it on chickens that they raise in extremely inhumane, factory farming conditions."

The customer is paying more for the organic label because they want to be assured the animals are treated humanely. Please ensure that the customer is getting what they pay for!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Michelle Giansante
P.O. Box 655

Normal, IL 61761
michelle@giansante.net

From: Misti Layne [misti@mistilayne.com]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 8:41 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Label

LeavesDear Ms. Benham,

I'm writing in concern over the organic labeling at chicken farms. The inhumane treatment and abuse of antibiotics do not qualify for the ability to be called organic. This is complete mis-representation and just not fair to anyone and will cause further abuse of chickens tomorrow.

Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,
Misti Reif
Misti Layne

From: MuddyPawz@aol.com%inter2 [MuddyPawz@aol.com] on behalf of MuddyPawz@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 9:54 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Please...DENY the organic label to factory farms.

Dear Ms. Benham:

Please DENY the organic label to factory farms. The industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the organic label.

The factory farming industry's attempt at creating an illusion of humaneness and good health is outrageous and disingenuous. If allowed, it will only strengthen an industry that does immeasurable harm to animals and the environment.

Sincerely,

Sheri Slas

From: Raindance81@aol.com%inter2 [Raindance81@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 11:28 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: The meaning of "organic"

I recently heard about the plight of industrial farming corporations to have their factories referred to as 'organic'. I can't see how an industry pumped full of chemicals and inhumane practices can justify marketing their product as healthy and humane. I urge you to deny these companies the right to pervert the meaning of 'organic' and effectively lie to the general population. Please consider the lasting effects of allowing little white lies into advertising and do what you can to put a stop to it. Sincerely,
Myra Downen

From: phyl [fastphyl@ptd.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 7:21 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: poultry organic label

I am appalled that an organic label will be givenh to factory farms!!! This industry is full of overuse of drugs & antibiotics on their animals & their containment & treatment is appalling & inhumane! They don't deserve to be in business let alone get an organic stamp from the government. How insane! Do not let it happen.

Instead, please demand no antibiotics & humane conditions on the farms. Our government should stop immediately on granting agribusinesses so much freedom to destroy life & abuse these captives in such inhumane unsanitary conditions.

Shame on them & shame on the government for allowing such abuses to happen!

Phyl Morello
HC 2
Albrightsville PA 18210

From: ReNae Vorgert [vorgert@nccray.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2002 12:19 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Label

Dear Ms. Benham,

I spoke with you on the phone about the organic labeling issue. I know I am late with my email but was in a car accident yesterday and had been fretting over how I can portray to you in an email how important this issue is. First of all I think that organic needs to mean organic. If I as a consumer I choose to buy organic and reach for a product that has an organic label I should be able to trust that I am getting what I am choosing to buy and that it is a truly organic product. Secondly there are people who are chemically sensitive that have serious health related reactions when they consume chemicals. My neighbor and friend was chemically sensitive and when she would consume something that wasn't truly organic her reactions would range from nausea and vomiting to seizures. She is now dead due to the complications that she suffered from her chemical injury. We are careful to label products that contain peanuts because of the dangerous reactions that occur when someone that is allergic to peanuts consumes them.....it is just as dangerous to chemically injured/chemically sensitive people to consume products that aren't truly organic. It is very simple.....if you want to use the organic label then give the consumer a product that is really organic. The bottom line in this debate is that the factory farming industry realizes that the organic market is a lucrative one and instead of conforming to the guidelines of the organics industry they are trying to bully their way in.....please don't let them.

Sincerely,
ReNae Vorgert

From: RGonz29452@aol.com%inter2 [RGonz29452@aol.com] on behalf of
RGonz29452@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 10:42 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Stop factory farms from using "Organic" label

Dear Ms. Benham:

I am writing to you concerning the push by Factory Farming interests to use "Organic" labels on the foods produced by their animals. This would be an ATROCITY if this were allowed!!! The animals raised in these horror chambers called "farms" are subjected to filth, disease, brutality, poor nutrition and drugs!!! This is just an effort by these Factory Farm 'people' to sell more of their products and appear more humane to the public. Please don't allow them to use the "Organic" label as this would greatly dilute the meaning of this label for the REAL ORGANIC farming methods and products!!!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Gonzalez
8840 Lake Park Circle N.
Davie, FL 33328

From: Rhea Lamia [RLAMIA@lacba.org]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 9:03 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Organic Industry Standards

Dear Ms. Benham:

I am writing to you, as you are a representative of the USDA. Please DENY the organic label to factory farms. Factory farming industry members are trying to usurp the "organic" label and use it on chickens that they raise in extremely inhumane, factory farming conditions. The factory farming industry's attempt at creating an illusion of humaneness and good health is outrageous and disingenuous. If allowed, it will only strengthen an industry that does immeasurable harm to animals and the environment. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label. Consumers depend on the "organic" label to guide them in their food purchasing choices. People that are committed to a healthy lifestyle and/or committed to purchases that do not further animal suffering depend on this label. Please help those consumers continue to make those choices in good faith. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rhea Lamia
12914 Ridge Drive, Camarillo, CA 93012

From: Robert Adams [randcadams@vol.com]

Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 8:56 PM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic standards

Dear Katherine Benham:

PLEASE DON'T LET THE POULTRY INDUSTRY HIJACK ORGANIC STANDARDS. Factory farming industry members are trying to usurp the "organic" label and use it on chickens that they raise in extremely inhumane, factory farming conditions. As the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Livestock Committee meets to establish national standards for organic poultry, giant corporations are intensively lobbying the Board to allow their industrialized factories to be certified as "organic!" The factory farming industry's attempt at creating an illusion of humaneness and good health is outrageous and disingenuous. If allowed, it will only strengthen an industry that does immeasurable harm to animals and the environment.

I am writing to urge the NOSB Livestock Committee to DENY the organic label to factory farms. An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label.

Thank you,

Constance E. Adams
390 Adams LN.
Richmond, KY 40475

From: sandy steiner [gandssteiner@centurytel.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2002 9:42 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Factory farms and the "organic" label

Dear Ms. Benham,

It is my understanding that the NOSB will soon be meeting to determine whether or not industrialized, factory farms should be allowed to use the term "organic" to describe their chickens.

I am hoping that the decision will be a resounding "NO". Currently, I purchase food items with the "organic" label with the understanding that it was raised without the use of pesticides, antibiotics or inhumane conditions. Perhaps I misunderstood the term. I have always felt as if my family was eating healthy and that whatever the product, the conditions under which it was raised were more natural and, in the case of animals, more humane.

If factory farms are allowed to use the term "organic", I will no longer feel safe purchasing anything with that label.

Please consider how many loyal customers nationwide will be betrayed by this action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Steiner
Gary Steiner
124 W. Rio Street
Rio, WI 53960
920-992-6024

From: Shane Tanner [montshane@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 1:15 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: Factory farming

Please do not allow factory farming to be in any way classed or associated with organic farming!

Organic farming is a step forward for humanity, and clearly is recognised as a choice increasing numbers of people are making, both for their own health and out of respect for other life and the planet.

Factory farming is not related in any way to this philosophy and may I suggest is pursuing the organics 'label' in order to tap into this market, whilst continuing to cruelly mistreat animals and poison the earth?

It would be an act of betrayal to all those who have strived and cared, both in the way they produce and in the way they live, for this to be allowed. Surely a giant step backward for humanity that we cannot afford to take ?

Please be very sure that any decisions made and approvals given are the very best they can be for humanity, and are made with thorough knowledge of all the facts.

I thank you for your time and consideration
Very sincerely
Hilary Field

From: Sidney Long [auvergne@mindspring.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 7:38 AM
To: Benham, Katherine

Subject: No Organic Labels for Factory Farm Chickens!

Dear Ms. Benham:

If NOSB gives permission to factory farms to label their poor suffering chickens as ORGANIC it will go against the spirit and the letter of the organic label.

The organic label MUST mean that the buyer has a guarantee that the chicken has lived a normal chicken life and been killed humanely.

If NOSB lets this travesty happen, it will only render the label "organic" meaningless.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sidney Long
18 Rhode Island Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
401-848-2554

From: fmayer [fmayer@megalink.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2002 7:59 AM
To: Benham, Katherine
Subject: organic labelled chickens

Dear ms. Benham:

I am most concerned that the factory farming industry, which raises chicken under inhumane conditions, not be allowed to use the label "organic" on such poultry. The factory farmers wish to create the impression that they raise chicken humanely and in good health. This is untrue and such treatment of poultry must be halted.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Perlman