

**FIELDALE FARMS CORPORATION**  
**P. O. Box 558**  
**Baldwin, GA 30511**

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March 28, 2002

The National Organic Standards Board  
Attention Katherine Benham  
Room 4008- South Building  
1400 & Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0001

Dear Ms. Benham:

The National Organic Standards Board has proposed requirements that poultry be required to have free access to the outside. Current food safety initiatives within the USDA would be exceptionally difficult to meet should the National Organic Standards Board require access to the outside. We are requesting that the NOSB reconsider its position concerning this requirement. Quite simply, it is not in the best interest of the consuming public to require birds to be outside. The risk of disease, parasites, and predation is significantly increased if birds are required to be kept or have access to the outside. Attached you will find the three-page summary outlining conditions and additional disease organisms that birds will be exposed to if they are required to have access to the outside.

Again, we respectfully request that the NOSB carefully reconsider their position on this issue, as this position is not in the best interests of the consuming public or food safety.

Sincerely,

FIELDALE FARMS CORPORATION

Steven D. Collier  
VP, Director of Operations

SDC:ms

Attach.