April 2, 03

Country of Origin Labeling program
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA, Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
14 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Sirs:

Having read the article about the "Country of Origin" in the "Ag-Alert" (Mar 5, 03) I am very concerned about the importation of 2nd & 3rd quality meats & produce from other countries. Labeling for everything is what I hope for. As a consumer I will not knowingly purchase meats and produce from outside the USA. Having ~~tried~~ tried some of this, I find that the quality is not up to home grown standards.

Plus we are importing - Bovine (and human) TB, E-Coli, other harmfull bacteria, fruit flys (Spain & Mexico) and who knows what else harmfull to our consumers. (Maybe foot + mouth & New Castle diseases)

I recently heard that much of Europe is planning to boycot most, or all, of the US products & produce, to protest the war in Iraq. While we are supose to continue to buy their produce + meats.

I strongly urge you to label everything for country of origin. I have noted that some of the store are starting to label produce + even some meats.

Sincerely

Irene Chapman