



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

Ms. Dolores McNinch
[REDACTED]

MAR 02 2012

Dear Ms. McNinch:

Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2012, to the Department of Agriculture (USDA), regarding horse slaughter in the United States. Your letter has been forwarded to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to be considered as a comment on the proposal.

FSIS is the public health regulatory agency in USDA responsible for ensuring that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled. FSIS enforces the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, which require Federal inspection and regulation of meat, poultry, and processed egg products prepared for distribution in commerce for use as human food.

We appreciate the input you provided in your letter on the process of implementing horse slaughter inspection. At this time, FSIS is carefully considering all aspects of this issue, and will take your comments into account during this process.

For more information about food safety, please visit FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Engeljohn, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development

