



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Washington, D. C.  
20250

Mr. Robert E. Rutkowski

FEB 13 2012

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@att.net

Dear Mr. Rutkowski:

Thank you for your e-mail of February 4, 2012, to the Department of Agriculture (USDA), regarding horse slaughter in the United States. Your e-mail 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](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

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



#### Serve Their Fare With Extra Care

Food safety is important for everyone—but older adults, people at any age who have cancer, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS, and those who are pregnant or who have received an organ transplant—are at greater risk for foodborne illnesses due to body change, medicines, or weaker immune systems.

Get the facts on prevention. Search for *At-Risk Brochures* at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).