



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Washington, D. C.  
20250

DEC - 4 2012

Mr. George Waters  
President  
George Waters Consulting Service  
505 Capitol Court, NE.  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Waters:

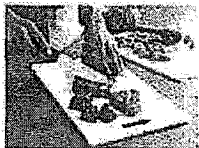
Thank you for your recent e-mail, following up on our meeting in September. I am glad we had an opportunity to discuss a number of issues associated with Federal inspection of horse slaughter. I appreciate the information you shared, and the photo you forwarded of the range degradation on the Yakama Reservation.

As you know, in November 2011, Congress lifted the ban on spending appropriated funds on ante mortem inspection of equines. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is committed to implementing Federal inspection of equines, but must do so in a manner that is consistent with existing statutes and regulations. Given that FSIS last inspected equines 6 years ago, the Agency must also adopt and validate new testing technologies and processes to address those that have changed during that period. We are moving forward in addressing these issues.

Again, thank you for your email, and for your willingness to work with FSIS.

Sincerely,

Alfred V. Almanza  
Administrator



Protecting public health by preventing foodborne illnesses is  
FSIS' top priority.

Help protect your family. Check Your Steps at  
<http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>  
and get ready to Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill.  
Food safety is important to everyone.