



United Egg Producers

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February 1, 2016

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0297

Dear Sir or Madam:

These comments on the collection of information in order to prevent *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) are submitted on behalf of United Egg Producers (UEP). The voice of America's egg farms, UEP represents the farmer members who own more than 303 million hens that produce more than 95% of all eggs sold in the United States.

UEP members are dedicated to providing consumers with safe and nutritious eggs. We support the regulations codified at 21 CFR part 188, commonly called the Egg Safety Rule. These regulations establish a sound baseline for producers to prevent SE at the farm level. Provisions of the regulations cover the acquisition of chicks and pullets, sanitation, rodent and pest control, cleaning and disinfection, environmental sampling, refrigeration and other matters.

In many cases, egg producers exceed the requirements of the Egg Safety Rule. A high percentage of farms vaccinate their flocks for SE, providing an additional layer of protection that supplements the practices required by the Rule. In addition, many farms participate in either state-level egg safety programs or private-sector programs, often in conjunction with requirements of their customers.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with its cooperating state partners, serves a critical role in enforcing the Egg Safety Rule through inspections and other activities. The collection of information and related requirements such as registration are vital to FDA's ability to do its job. Because UEP believes the Egg Safety Rule serves sound public policy goals of food safety, we support continuation of the information collection activity on which FDA is seeking comment. We also encourage FDA to ensure that its information-collection and enforcement resources are sufficient to properly regulate all eggs subject to the Egg Safety Rule, including both imported eggs and those diverted into egg marketing channels from other poultry industries.

UEP appreciates FDA's consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Oscar S. Garrison
Vice President of Food Safety Regulatory Affairs
United Egg Producers

U.S. Council Representative



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