

COALITION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE U.S. LIVESTOCK HERD

June 13, 2010

Docket No. APHIS-2009-0034,
Regulatory Analysis and Development,
PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700
River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Dear Secretary Tom Vilsack,

The 34 participating groups in the Coalition to Protect the Health of the U.S. Livestock Herd, which include livestock associations, consumer groups, trade associations and manufacturing interests, jointly submit the attached Q&A Factsheet to demonstrate that USDA's plan to regionalize Santa Catarina, Brazil, or any other state or regions within a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) affected country, is fundamentally flawed and should immediately be withdrawn. As documented in the attached Q&A Factsheet, USDA's plan would unacceptably increase the risk of FMD introduction into the United States without providing the United States with any compensation or benefit.

The 34 participating groups in the Coalition to Protect the Health of the U.S. Livestock Herd include: American Agriculture Movement, Inc., BueLingo Beef Cattle Society, California Farmers Union, Cattle Producers of Washington, Citizens for Private Property Rights (Missouri), Colorado Independent CattleGrowers Association, Coalition for a Prosperous America, Dakota Rural Action, Food & Water Watch, Freedom21, Inc., Idaho Rural Council, Independent Beef Association of North Dakota, Independent Cattleman of Nebraska, Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming, International Texas Longhorn Association, Intertribal Agricultural Council, Michigan Farmers Union, Mississippi Livestock Markets Association, Missouri's Best Beef Co-Operative, Missouri Farmers Union, National Association of Farm Animal Welfare, Nebraska Farmers Union, Nevada Live Stock Association, Ohio Farmers Union, Organization for Competitive Markets, Pennsylvania Farmers Union, R-CALF USA, SmallHolders Alliance of Massachusetts, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, South Dakota Livestock Auction Markets Association, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, Sovereignty International, Inc., Texas Longhorn Marketing Alliance, and Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association.

For the reasons set forth in the attached Q& A Factsheet, we urge you to immediately withdraw your proposal to regionalize Santa Catarina, Brazil, or any other state or region within a FMD affected country.

Sincerely,

Bill Bullard

On behalf of the Coalition to Protect the Health of the U.S. Livestock Herd

Attachment: Q&A Factsheet: “Questions and Answers: USDA’s Plan to Lift FMD Restrictions for Brazil Through International “Regionalization”