

June 17, 2003

Dr. Nancy Halpern, Director
Division of Animal Health
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

Dear Dr. Halpern,

As a farmer engaged in the humane treatment and raising of farm animals, I am writing to convey my disappointment in the New Jersey Department of Agriculture regarding your standards for humane treatment of farm animals. I am shocked to find you're your proposed standards do not address many issues which are inherently cruel and unnecessary in animal production, sanctioning their existence under the premise of being "routine". I can assure you that the practices allowed in your standards are neither "routine" nor humane. These methods are utilized purely in pursuit of profit, at the expense of the animals.

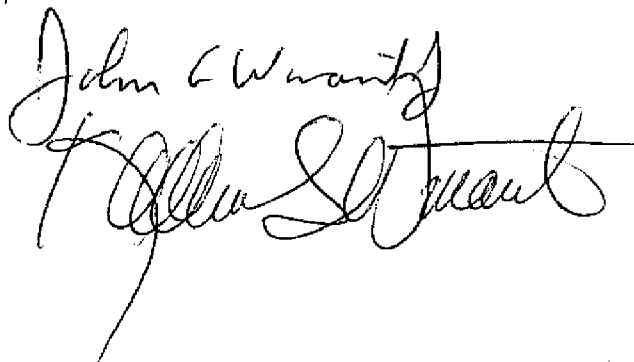
Your endorsement of these methods impairs all small farmers, creating an economic and competitive disadvantage, wherein it can be construed as the department's indication that profit supercedes humane treatment of animals.

How appallingly cruel must the treatment of an animal be to be considered inhumane by the department? Which sensible individual would not view the intentional starvation of an animal (forced molting) to be unspeakably cruel? The confinement of a pregnant sow to a two-footwide area for the duration of her wretched, derisory life, is obviously cruel, as well as unjustifiable. Other production methods, such as tethering, battery cages, forced molting, and veal crating are blatantly cruel.

These proposed standards fall very short in the protection animals and should be redrafted to address the aforementioned farming methods, which are plainly inhumane.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Winant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.