

Simply Grazin Organic Farm
182 Van Dyke Rd.
Hopewell, NJ 08525

June 17, 2003

Dr. Nancy Halpern, Director
Division of Animal Health
NJ Dept. of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625-0330

Dear Dr. Halpern:

As a farmer who practices the humane treatment of animals, I'm sending this letter to express my concern over the standards allowed by the Dept. of Agriculture. These standards need to be revised to better protect these farm animals. Animals do not have to be subjected to confined areas in order to produce for the farmer. Raising them inhumanely, externalizing their water and electric costs puts them at such an unfair advantage over the small farmer. Who wouldn't be able to make a profit if you could squeeze hundreds of animals in a small space and not have to worry about pasture to put them on or the weather providing sunshine for them. These are the obstacles my husband and I face and I couldn't do it any other way. I sleep well at night knowing we did the best we could in raising them and there's no regrets when they go to the processor.

Stop allowing these large farms to unfairly compete against smaller farms who respect their animals and bust their butts raising them humanely. Stop allowing profit to become more important than the humane treatment of the farm animals. I can't help but wonder what would be considered "inhumane" by your department.

Please redraft your standards and help to enforce the well-being of the animals who sacrifice their lives for us.

Sincerely,

Karen Faille