

May 5, 2010

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Food and Drug Administration
Room 1061
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
Docket Number FDA-2009-P-0594-0001/CP

Food and Drug Administration:

We, the undersigned cooperative grocers in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, are writing to express our support for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's (IATP) and Center for Food Safety's (CFS) petition to immediately suspend the approval of all New Animal Drug Applications (NADA) for arsenic-containing compounds in animal feed.

Although some chicken, turkey and swine producers use arsenical-containing compounds in their animal feed, they are not necessary to provide a wholesome product or to treat animal sicknesses. Nor are they essential for growing healthy animals or for the production of safe and nutritious meat products. In fact, several meat and poultry products sold in our stores, such as Applegate Farms, Kadajen Farms, Larry Schultz Organic, Pastures A Plenty, Beeler Pork and Grass Run Farm (pork), do not use arsenicals and still consistently provide wholesome, safe food for their customers. Moreover, it is worth noting that the European Union has never approved the use of arsenicals as an animal feed additive.

Given that the use of arsenic in animal feed is unnecessary for the production of healthy and nutritious animals, and that such practices needlessly and unreasonably add harmful substances to the American diet, we join CFS and IATP in urging FDA to withdraw the approval of arsenicals in animal feed and to remove such feed from the market.

Sincerely,

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