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Health Products
and Food Branch

Direction générale des produits
de santé et des aliments

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March 13, 2014

Chad MacPherson
General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
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Regina, Saskatchewan
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ssga@sasktel.net

Dear Mr. MacPherson,

Thank you for your correspondence of January 24, 2014, addressed to the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, requesting a response to specific resolutions that were recently passed by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. The approval of irradiation as a food safety intervention for trim and ground beef, which is the subject of resolution #3, falls under the responsibility of Health Canada. A copy of your correspondence was forwarded to Health Canada's Food Directorate for direct reply.

At present, the *Food and Drug Regulations* (Regulations) permit only potatoes, onions, wheat, wheat flour, whole wheat flour, and whole or ground spices and dehydrated seasoning preparations to be irradiated and offered for sale in Canada. However, you may be aware that the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has publically stated that it is seeking Health Canada's approval to irradiate ground beef. The Food Directorate is completing its evaluation of the safety and efficacy of this proposed use of irradiation and is preparing for the next steps to advance this file.

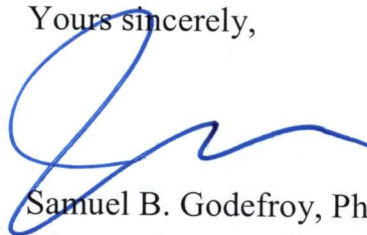
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The CCA's submission and supporting information focused on the irradiation of ground beef and therefore Health Canada's evaluation did not include irradiation of beef trim, a use for which your association has indicated support. However, a request to permit a new use of irradiation on food can be made, as per section B.26.005 of the Regulations, provided that the request is accompanied by a supporting submission that contains the required information for evaluation by Health Canada. A checklist¹ outlining the submission requirements is available to assist petitioners with preparing a submission. General information on food irradiation, including a summary of previous evaluations, is also available on the Department's website.²

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,



for Samuel B. Godefroy, Ph.D.
Director General, Food Directorate

¹ http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/pubs/irradiation-checklist_irradiation-aide-memoire-eng.php

² <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/irridation/index-eng.php>