

If you eat food, you should read this.



The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We are deeply disappointed by your proposal to eliminate the new organic standard on animal welfare.

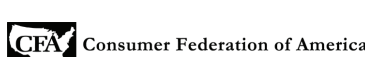
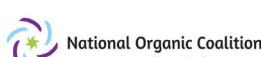
This is an affront to the many people and organizations engaged in a multi-year, transparent, and highly participatory process that resulted in an animal welfare standard overwhelmingly supported by organic farmers, organic companies, humane animal care advocates, and consumers.

Please remember that farmers choose to be organic and adhere to strict standards. We support this voluntary regulatory program on which the \$50 billion organic industry depends. The program is an outstanding example of how private initiatives can marry public process and it has had strong bipartisan approval from its inception.

Organic farmers have pioneered new practices to enhance animal welfare because consumers demand it and because it makes farms more resilient and profitable. Eliminating the rule not only fails to acknowledge innovation in the organic farming sector and provide fair and transparent rules, it also undermines the faith people have in how organic agriculture is governed.

We implore you to restore the organic animal welfare standard. Businesses depend upon it, and consumers expect nothing less.

Sincerely,



Submit your own comment to the USDA at www.organicvalley.coop