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September 14, 2010

Mr. Austin DeCoster
Owner
Wright County Egg
2674 Highway 69
Galt, Iowa 50101

Dear Mr. DeCoster:

We thank you for agreeing to testify voluntarily at the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing scheduled for September 21, 2010. As you prepare for the hearing, we ask that you come ready to address questions about disturbing environmental sample results at Wright County Egg. These results appear to show that your company tested positive for *Salmonella* on multiple occasions between 2008 and 2010.

In the course of its investigation, the Committee has obtained records that show that Wright County Egg tested positive for *Salmonella* contamination in its Iowa facilities prior to the widespread outbreak of illnesses apparently caused by your eggs. Environmental sample reports between 2008 and 2010 indicate that Wright County Egg received 426 positive results for *Salmonella*, including 73 samples that were potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis, the same strain that has sickened 1,519 people. This letter includes a summary of the laboratory results.

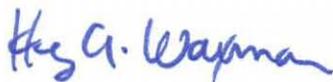
On August 23, 2010, the Committee wrote you to ask you to provide “[d]ocuments sufficient to show the dates and results of all instances of monitoring or analysis that yielded a positive finding for microbiological testing.” Despite the Committee’s specific request, your response on September 11, 2010, did not include the 73 potentially positive results for *Salmonella* Enteritidis. It also did not show whether Wright County Egg took appropriate steps to protect the public after receiving the positive test results.

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When you testify before the Committee, we ask that you come prepared to explain why your facilities tested potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis contamination on so many occasions, what steps you took to address the contamination identified in these test results, and whether you shared these results with FDA or other federal or state food safety officials.

We understand that your September 11 document production to the Committee was a partial production and that you are continuing to search for responsive records. We are concerned, however, that you did not inform the Committee of the potentially positive *Salmonella* Enteritidis test results. We ask that you produce these test results and all other responsive documents, including all documents relating to your response to the test results, to the Committee by Wednesday, September 15, 2010. We also ask that you explain as part of this production why your September 11 response did not include the test results.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

SUMMARY

1. July 26, 2010: One *Salmonella* Enteritidis positive result;
2. May 27, 2010: 66 positive results for *Salmonella*;
3. October 29, 2009: 23 positive results for *Salmonella*, including two results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
4. October 29, 2009: At least seven positive results for *Salmonella*;
5. September 15, 2009: 21 positive results for *Salmonella*, including four results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
6. August 25, 2009: 34 positive results for *Salmonella*, including seven results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
7. August 20, 2009: 18 positive results for *Salmonella*, including four results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
8. August 12, 2009: Seven positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
9. August 12, 2009: 11 positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
10. August 12, 2009: Nine positive results for *Salmonella*, including seven results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
11. August 4, 2009: At least one positive result for *Salmonella*;
12. July 31, 2009: 18 positive results for *Salmonella*, including eight results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
13. June 12, 2009: Six positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
14. June 4, 2009: 12 positive results for *Salmonella*;
15. June 2, 2009: At least six positive results for *Salmonella*;
16. May 14, 2009: Eight positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;

17. April 28, 2009: Nine positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
18. April 13, 2009: 20 positive results for *Salmonella*, including five results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
19. March 25, 2009: 10 positive results for *Salmonella*, including two results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
20. February 27, 2009: 26 positive results for *Salmonella*, including one result potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
21. February 27, 2009: 11 positive results for *Salmonella*, including three results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
22. January 5, 2009: 31 positive results for *Salmonella*, including three results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
23. January 5, 2009: 30 positive results for *Salmonella*, including nine results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
24. December 29, 2008: At least five positive results for *Salmonella*;
25. October 29, 2008: 12 positive results for *Salmonella*, including two results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
26. September 17, 2008: 10 positive results for *Salmonella*, including five results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis;
27. September 4, 2008: 10 positive results for *Salmonella*, including two results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis; and
28. September 4, 2008: At least four positive results for *Salmonella*, including three results potentially positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis.