



NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION

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SOME FACTS ABOUT 'FOOD, INC.'

The filmmakers behind the new documentary *Food Inc.*, which goes into limited release on June 12, 2009, would like you to believe that agriculture has "a highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from the American consumer," that grain feed makes cattle sick and that meat production is responsible for global warming. Yet, the truth is:

- Every aspect of meat production is regulated, from line speeds to labeling, and every animal is inspected by a public health veterinarian prior to slaughter.
- All of these laws and regulations are a matter of public record and available online. Visit www.fsis.usda.gov where they are easily downloadable.
- Cattle evolved to get their nutrients from a wide range of plants, including grains. In the United States, cattle have been fed grains like corn for at least 200 years because they are nutritious, energy-rich, and can be stored throughout the year.
- Meat consumption contributes only a small part of U.S. greenhouse gas production. According to EPA, in 2007 only 2.8 percent of U.S. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions came from animal agriculture through a process called enteric fermentation (the digestion of feed by ruminant animals) and through manure management.
- Banning proven production practices without cause would force operations to close or relocate, which could raise food prices, reduce food safety and even negatively impact world food supply.

On the other hand, subscribing to the filmmakers' vision for North American food production would mean:

- Food prices—especially meat and poultry prices—would rise dramatically because of the increased costs of the inefficiency of their production approaches.
- Vast amounts of land would need to be used to raise livestock and poultry in free range systems, impacting ecology on a vast scale.
- The environment would suffer from open systems lacking environmental controls.

To correct these and other fallacies of the film, NMA has joined an alliance of associations that represent the livestock, meat and poultry industries in establishing a fact-based website, which we recommend you visit at: www.safefoodinc.com.

Media inquires may be directed to Jeremy Russell, Director of Communications and Government Relations, at jeremy@nmaonline.org. □

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