**NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION**
1970 Broadway, Suite 825, Oakland, CA 94612
Ph. (510) 763-1533 or (202) 667-2108 • Fax (510) 763-6186
staff@nmaonline.org • http://www.nmaonline.org

## NMA Statement on Feed Recall
## June 22, 2006

HJ Baker and Bro., Inc has initiated a recall of certain animal feed ingredients produced at its Albertville, AL facility. Feeds that have been manufactured with the recalled ingredients are also being recalled. The company's press release is available on the FDA website at http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/hjbaker06_06.html.

HJ Baker has provided the following additional information today:

> *HJ Baker & Bro. is voluntarily recalling three products produced at its Albertville, Alabama facility. Two of these, PRO-LAK and PRO-AMINO II, are protein supplements used in the manufacture of dairy feeds. The third product, PRO-PAK WITH PORCINE MEAT AND BONE, is a protein supplement for poultry feed. H.J. Baker's recall was initiated because of a potential risk of unintentional contamination with ruminant derived protein. A further review of the company's records confirms that any actual contamination would have been extraordinarily unlikely.*
>
> 1. *It has been the Albertville facility's policy to test every shipment of its dairy feed supplement prior to shipment, using a test which will detect and distinguish the presence of ruminant tissue. Pursuant to this policy, 291 of the 292 shipments of dairy ingredients which are subject to the recall were tested prior to shipment. All of these tests were negative for the presence of ruminant tissue.*
>
> 2. *One third of the product covered by the recall is PRO-PAK WITH PORCINE MEAT AND BONE, a protein supplement for poultry feed which was intended and sold only for poultry use.*
>
> 3. *Because PRO-LAK and PRO-AMINO II are protein supplements used in the manufacture of dairy feeds, they would not have been used in feeds for beef cattle from which beef is exported to Japan and other foreign markets.*

As noted in the above statement, the reason for the recall is due to a risk of possible contamination of ruminant feed by prohibited bovine materials. No actual contamination was discovered, but it was determined that a risk of such contamination might exist.

Most bovine materials are prohibited from ruminant feed not because they are infectious, but rather because they might become infectious if the disease is present. If any prohibited material was present in feed, in all likelihood it came from healthy animals. There is no evidence that the disease was present in this case.

In fact, given the low levels found by the APHIS surveillance program, the possibility of the disease being present in any of this material is minute.

Therefore, it is highly unlikely that there is any true risk associated with this product. Furthermore, FDA has investigated this incident and has taken the appropriate actions to ensure food and feed safety.

Although any feed recall is a matter for concern, it is important to remember that human health has not been compromised in this case.

The ban on the use of ruminant proteins in cattle feed is only one of several firewall protections used to protect the food supply. Human health is protected not only by a livestock feed ban, which prevents the spread of the disease among cattle, but by a ban on Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) from entering the human food supply.

Furthermore, this recall was not prompted by the discovery of actual Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). No additional actions related to the slaughter, processing or distribution of beef products are necessary or prudent.

For additional information contact Jeremy Russell, Director of Communications and Government Relations, National Meat Association, (510) 763-1533. NMA Headquarters: 1970 Broadway, Suite 835. Oakland, CA 94612. Fax: (510) 763-6186. http://www.nmaonline.org.

***