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To whom it may concern,

### **Re: Specified Risk Material (SRM) Status of Silver Fern Farms Beef Product**

FSIS issued a FR Notice in July 2007 affirming earlier Notices but providing for countries with an OIE negligible risk status for BSE could make an application for an equivalence determination recognising that our BSE risk status can reasonably be expected to provide the same level of protection from human exposure to the BSE agent as prohibiting SRMs for use as human food does in the United States. The Ministry for Primary Industries, formerly the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), accordingly made a submission to FSIS. MPI received notification from the FSIS granting equivalence.

Notwithstanding the acceptance from FSIS that New Zealand has a recognised negligible BSE risk status, Silver Fern Farms has implemented systems at all beef facilities that are in compliance with FSIS Notice 56-07, Final Regulations for Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle and Specified Risk Materials.

The following procedures ensure that no products defined as SRMs are able to enter the human food chain for product destined for the United States:

- No air injection stunning is used.
- The spinal cords and tonsils are removed from all carcasses.
- The skull, including brains, eyes, and trigeminal ganglia, are discarded from all cattle.
- Equipment used for SRM removal is colour coded and sterilised separately to ensure cross contamination is eliminated.
- Workers handling SRM material are identified separately from other workers, and undergo specific training on SRM control.
- The vertebral column, which contains the dorsal root ganglia, is removed during fabrication from cattle of all ages, including those 30 months and older.
- The small intestines, including the distal ileum, are discarded to rendering.

The following establishment numbers are covered by this letter: Silver Fern Farms Dargaville ME125; Silver Fern Farms Te Aroha ME84; Silver Fern Farms Hawera ME09; Silver Fern Farms Waitoa ME100; Silver Fern Farms Pacific ME52; Silver Fern Farms Belfast ME15; Silver Fern Farms Pareora ME34; Silver Fern Farms Finegand ME26; and Silver Fern Farms Hokitika PH206.

Yours sincerely

**Karen Parker**  
Technical Development Co-ordinator



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