

European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB)

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EFFAB contribution to public consultation of the European Food Safety Authority

1 June 2007

Dear Dr. Kleiner,

Further to the EFSA consultation on animal cloning I would like to send you our reaction.

The European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) is an organisation of the major European farm animal breeding and reproduction organizations, who are world leaders in animal breeding.

- We have no evidence that, and would not know how, edible products from cloned animals would, could or should be different from products from non-cloned animals.

- In general, farm animal breeding organizations are not interested in the application of animal cloning as a reproduction means, as it does not bring any benefit to the current animal breeding business. I attach some powerpoint presentations of EFFAB members, and a discussion document.

- We know e.g. semen from cloned bulls, can be put on the market. This semen can not be distinguished from 'non-cloned' semen. Here the question arises whether offspring of cloned animals, who are born naturally, 'are somehow linked to cloning'.

- Products from cloned animals can currently not be distinguished – we have no solution how this can be solved.

- We consider it very important that the general public has the choice to use or not use certain products. E.g. organic products that can be perceived as beneficial for the one (natural?) and the opposite for the other (disease risk?) consumer. Or products from cloned animals that can be perceived as safe and forward for the one (new technology, advanced), or less safe for the other (who knows, even when not detectable, I do not know...) or ethically less desirable (for e.g. religious reasons) for again another consumer.

- We believe basic research on animal cloning should not get lost for Europe, as we should be able to judge by our own means the developments, possible risks for animal health or welfare, etc, in order to be able take an underpinned point of view.

The attached article in Nature Biotechnology of a scientific journalist expresses very well the above.

We hope this is a helpful addition to your inventarisation.