

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 241

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to provide that a quality grade label issued by the Secretary of Agriculture for beef and lamb may not be used for imported beef or imported lamb.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to provide that a quality grade label issued by the Secretary of Agriculture for beef and lamb may not be used for imported beef or imported lamb.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Truth in Quality Grad-
5 ing Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. QUALITY GRADE LABELING OF BEEF AND LAMB.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1 of the Federal Meat In-
3 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “(w) BEEF.—The term ‘beef’ means meat pro-
6 duced from cattle (including veal).

7 “(x) IMPORTED BEEF.—The term ‘imported
8 beef’ means beef that is not United States beef,
9 whether or not the beef is graded with a quality
10 grade issued by the Secretary.

11 “(y) IMPORTED LAMB.—The term ‘imported
12 lamb’ means lamb that is not United States lamb,
13 whether or not the lamb is graded with a quality
14 grade issued by the Secretary.

15 “(z) LAMB.—The term ‘lamb’ means meat,
16 other than mutton, produced from sheep.

17 “(aa) UNITED STATES BEEF.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
19 States beef’ means beef produced from cattle
20 slaughtered in the United States.

21 “(2) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘United
22 States beef’ does not include beef produced
23 from cattle imported into the United States in
24 sealed trucks for slaughter.

25 “(bb) UNITED STATES LAMB.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘United
2 States lamb’ means lamb produced from sheep
3 slaughtered in the United States.

4 “(2) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘United
5 States lamb’ does not include lamb produced
6 from sheep imported into the United States in
7 sealed trucks for slaughter.”.

8 (b) MISBRANDING.—Section 1(n) of the Federal
9 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the
11 end;

12 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at
13 the end and inserting “; or”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(13) if it is imported beef or imported lamb
16 and bears a label that indicates a quality grade
17 issued by the Secretary.”.

18 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
20 shall promulgate final regulations to carry out the amend-
21 ments made by this section.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section take effect 60 days after the date on which
24 final regulations are promulgated under subsection (c).

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