

Orlando Sentinel | IN THE KITCHEN

[JOBS](#) [CARS](#) [REAL ESTATE](#) [SHOPPING](#) [PLACE AN AD](#)

 7-DAY SEARCH: OUR SITE WEB

[HOME PAGE](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [LIFESTYLE](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [OPINION](#) | [TRAVEL](#) | [FEATURES](#) | [IN THE KITCHEN](#) | [HOME & GARDEN](#) | [HEALTH & MEDICINE](#) | [WORKING](#) | [RIDE](#) | [COLUMNISTS](#) | [CRC](#)


USDA: Import China's poultry

Critics who fear bird flu object even to processed products.

Libby Quaid | the Associated Press

Posted January 28, 2006

WASHINGTON -- The Agriculture Department is seeking to allow shipments of poultry processed in China, where thousands of birds and several people have died from bird flu.

The United States does not accept live-poultry imports from countries where the virulent bird-flu strain is present, and it still would not under the proposed policy.

Instead, the department would allow China to process poultry slaughtered in the U.S. or other countries from which the U.S. accepts poultry.

Critics are urging the department to drop the proposal, fearing how it might affect consumers' perception of how safe it is to eat chicken.

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa said Friday that the U.S. can't afford to take chances. He acknowledged there are safeguards in the plan but said the department has a poor record on inspections.

"We know that USDA's foreign-food inspections have had problems in the past, and with so many unanswered questions, it is not wise to allow processed-poultry imports from China at this time," said Harkin, the senior Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"I am concerned the administration is neglecting the substantial public-health and economic risks to the United States, which USDA itself acknowledges but fails to address," he said.

The industry did not ask for the proposal, National Chicken Council spokesman Richard Lobb said. Chicken companies recently launched tests of every flock in the nation to reassure people that chicken is safe to eat.

"The timing is a mystery to us. We did not seek this rule. We're not objecting to it, but we didn't support it, either," Lobb said.

Under the government proposal, the poultry would have to be fully cooked in China and packaged or canned for shipment to the United States.

Copyright © 2006, Orlando Sentinel | Get home delivery - up to 50% off

- E-mail this article
- Printer friendly version
- Most e-mailed articles
- News on your cell

Related News from the Web

- [Bird Flu](#)
- [Health](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)





CATEGORIES

- Bed & Bath
- Children's Ap
- Computers &
- Digital Came
- Electronics
- Food & Beve
- Health & Bea
- Home Furnis
- Home Impro
- Office Suppli
- Shoes & Boo
- Toys & Game
- Video Game:
- Women's Ap

[CLICK HERE](#)

Find deals at




**Find out whi
your neig**

Your ZIP

HOME AND
Check out the la
House to Hon
lifestyle mag
Orlando



Mature |



Access the full
communities in
county, find an
download the di
peruse ou

Partners: CareerBuilder.com for Jobs | Cars.com for Autos | Apartments.com for Rentals | Homescape.com for

[HOME PAGE](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [LIFESTYLE](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [OPINION](#) | [TRAVEL](#) |

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Work For Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

© 2006 Orlando Sentinel Communications