

## Kasie Maxwell

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**From:** Tara Firma Farms <farmigo.tarafirmafarms@farmigo-csa-hr.appspotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 12:30 PM  
**To:** Kasie Maxwell  
**Cc:** jeff@sfrac.com  
**Subject:** Your Food is Safe: Rancho Veal Update

Dear Members,

A few of you have called or e-mailed inquiring about the news article posted in several papers or blogs on Sunday regarding Rancho Processing in Petaluma.

Here is what happened. There is a set of paperwork to be filled out if an animal comes in sick. The animal is either destroyed or sent back to the farmer. It never goes into the market for human consumption. A USDA agent is on sight at Rancho at all times of processing.

The administrative process Rancho used to return or destroy these animals is what was in question with the Federal Government. No illnesses have been reported because no meat from a sick animal went into the market. Rancho is a small processing plant- and did I mention a USDA agent is on the premises to police process and procedure at all times?

We take our pigs and cattle there for processing. Our animals go in, are processed and sent directly to Golden Gate Meats in Santa Rosa to be cut and packaged. It is a humane, clean and quick death and strict processes/procedures are used.

I want to make a couple of points about the newspaper article:

1. The meat in question was "...beef carcasses, oxtail, liver, cheeks, tripe, tongue and veal bones...". Might I point out the picture has none of those meats? It is only prime cuts. This is grossly misleading.
2. The headline is also misleading. Here's what it should have been:  
"California Company Updates its Paperwork to New Federal Guidelines."  
Yeah, ok, you probably wouldn't have read that article!
3. "California company is recalling more than 8.7 million pounds of beef products because it processed diseased and unhealthy animals ". Really? 8.7 million pounds? And NOBODY, not one person, has complained, gotten ill, etc? Since when does out of date paperwork constitute sick animals? Does the reporter mean to insinuate that the out of date paperwork allowed 8.7 million pounds of diseased meat out into the market? What about all the years before? Same paperwork, no sick people. Not from Rancho, not from Petaluma, and certainly not from small local producers.

Do I sense a political move?

As they say, if you're being shot at, you must be doing something good.

I am your farmer, I got this. Please do not hesitate to call me.

Tara F. Smith  
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