

Consumer Questions About Food Products From Cloned Animals: Talking Points for Retailers

Q. What is cloning?

A. Cloning is an assisted reproductive technique that produces an animal that is an identical twin of an existing animal.

Q. Is cloning safe?

A. Yes cloning is safe. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture have determined that cloning does not affect the safety or healthfulness of meat and milk.

Q. How does livestock cloning benefit consumers?

A. The use of cloning in livestock breeding programs will enable food retailers to provide consumers with more consistently high-quality meat and milk from the best livestock at an affordable price.

Q. How does livestock cloning benefit food retailers?

A. Thanks to the use of cloning in livestock breeding programs, retailers will be able to source meat nationally from superior animals.

Q. Can consumers avoid food from cloned animals?

A. There is no such thing as cloned food because consumers are unlikely to ever eat food products from cloned animals. Cloned livestock are for breeding, not eating. Meat and milk will continue to come from conventionally-produced animals.

Q. How can consumers be certain a food product does not come from a cloned animal?

A. A supply chain management system has been developed to ensure that food retailers may use voluntary labeling to indicate that a food product does not come from a cloned animal. Such labels are now in development. We respect and support consumer choice.

Q. But I heard the U.S. Food and Drug Administration did not approve labels for food products from cloned animals. Is that true?

A. Yes it is true that FDA stated that mandatory labeling is not required. Because cloning does not affect food safety or food ingredients, the FDA does not require food products from cloned animals to be labeled. However, food marketers are free to voluntarily label food products to indicate whether or not they came from cloned animals. Similar voluntary, process-based labels are used to identify organic and kosher food products.