



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

May 27, 1980

Dr. Philip H. Abelson
Editorial Office
1515 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Abelson:

I thought your editorial on May 9 on beef production and consumption was excellent. It effectively brought together a picture of the combined forces of energy shortage, public health recommendations, informed consumer choices and production and marketing changes. I believe it helps very much when a distinguished scientist with national stature can look at and synthesize these issues from outside the health and agricultural establishments. You put them into excellent perspective.

I am assured by Gene Allen and other experts here that there is little question that breeding and feeding practices, irrespective of antibiotics and growth promoting substances, can significantly increase the efficiency of energy conversion and reduction of our artificially obese cattle.

It is my estimate, as yours, that economic and ecological factors are working to the advantage of the public health. But I hope you don't experience harassment as a result of your editorial. Some of us who have taken health stances on these issues have experienced much viciousness from an establishment which has difficulty looking at itself and the issues.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:rc

encl.

pc: C. Eugene Allen ✓

CORRES - ALLEN



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Professor C. Eugene Allen
Department of Animal Science &
Food Science and Nutrition
136 Andrew Boss Laboratory (Meat Science)
1354 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Gene:

There appear to be other scientists in high places who are happy about the trend toward efficiency in beef production in which you have pioneered.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:rc

encl. *Science article 9/80*
beef Pro. + consumption

HEALTH SCIENCES