

June 15, 2010

RE: Grass-fed and Grain-fed Beef Study

To Whom It May Concern:

First, let me apologize for taking so long to respond to all of you. I received a very large number of e-mails concerning the recent Texas A&M news release about our comparison of ground beef from grass-fed and grain-fed cattle. I had no idea the news release would generate so much interest, and I was overwhelmed by the response.

Second, I am afraid that our news release was interpreted as an attack against grass-fed beef, which definitely was not our intent. We recently observed that ground beef produced from pasture-fed and grain-fed Angus and Wagyu cattle had very different effects on HDL cholesterol in men (British Journal of Nutrition, 103:91-98, 2010), and we wanted to address the hypothesis that ground beef from grass-fed beef was no healthier than ground beef from grain-fed cattle in a larger, more comprehensive study.

Finally, we understand that there is enormous variation in pasture conditions in the U.S. Our grass-fed cattle grazed coastal Bermudagrass pasture and hay that contained 9.5% crude protein. The grass-fed cattle graded USDA Select, so this gave us enough carcass fat to produce our ground beef. Other kinds of pasture will be very different in nutrient composition, and future research should compare beef from cattle grazed on different pastures.

Our manuscript describing this study currently is under review for publication. Many of you have requested a copy of the study and I originally intended to distribute the manuscript to those who requested it. However, it became apparent that distributing the data at this time could jeopardize publication of the manuscript in a good quality journal. For this reason, I have not been able to respond to your requests for a copy of the study. We will do everything we can to distribute the published manuscript once it is in press.

Sincerely,



Stephen B. Smith
Professor