

# FAKE MEAT FACTS



National Cattlemen's  
Beef Association



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*As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) work toward finalizing a comprehensive regulatory framework for lab-grown fake meat, critical questions about production and food safety must be addressed.*

## **1. Will the FDA evaluate the pre-market safety of the products?**

The initial announcement of the regulatory framework made no mention of a pre-market safety evaluation, which FDA has traditionally been responsible for conducting.

## **2. Will a USDA veterinarian inspect animals that provide cells for the culturing process?**

Ante-mortem inspection of every animal is a fundamental component of inspection and should be applied to livestock used in the cell-cultured protein manufacturing process.

## **3. When and how will oversight of the production process transition from FDA to USDA?**

The framework notes that an oversight transition will occur during the "cell harvest stage" but does not provide details on the specific timing and mechanics.

## **4. How will antibiotics be used in the production process?**

Despite the claims of some manufacturers, independent scientists have noted that antibiotics will be used in the production process and raised questions about the impact on the finished food product.

## **5. How will food safety risks change when cell-cultured products are manufactured at commercial scale?**

Risks associated with commercial production may differ from the risks associated with production in the research and development phase.

## **6. Is the finished product safe for human consumption?**

Fake meat industry representatives claim that the technologies used in cell-cultured manufacturing are widely-used and understood, but the finished product must still be evaluated for safety.

## **7. How does the finished product compare to conventionally-produced meat on a scientific level?**

Manufacturers claim that cell-cultured products will be identical to conventional meat but have thus far not provided evidence of compositional and nutritional similarities.

## **8. Have the finished products been analyzed by independent scientists?**

In the absence of independent, scientific evaluation of cell-cultured products, assessments will be based on the unverified claims of manufacturers and limited academic research.