



SUMMER 2006

# Food Safety Now!



Summer is Finally Here! Get your hands dirty on page 6

Don't want your milk from cloned cows? Take action on page 7

New report by CFS comes to a sickening conclusion, see page 3

Inspector General's report slams USDA on page 4



## SOMETHING'S SCARY IN THE DAIRY

INADEQUATELY TESTED AND UNLABELED genetically engineered crops have been widely used in our food for nearly a decade, but now another risky genetic food technology threatens our food supply. Meat and dairy products from cloned animals may soon be sold, unlabeled, in grocery stores across the country. Yet scientists say that cloned animals may inherently be unhealthy, with potentially harmful consequences for animal foods derived from clones. Moreover, cloning is a cruel technology that often results in needless animal suffering.

Cloning first succeeded in producing a live birth with the famed sheep clone Dolly in 1997, and has since been used in many other animal species, including dairy cows and beef cattle, poultry, hogs, and other livestock. But after the hype, few commentators followed the story of Dolly's demise. Just six years old when she was euthanized (sheep of Dolly's breed generally live to 11 or 12), Dolly suffered from premature arthritis and lung disease usually seen in much older animals.

Dolly was hardly unique among cloned animals. Incidents of unusual health problems, chronic illnesses, and sudden unexpected deaths plague the cloning industry. The head of one cloning company said that the data on the numerous health problems in surviving cloned cows "suggested to the vets that some of them should be dead." Ian Wilmut, the lead scientist responsible for creating Dolly has warned that even small imbalances in a clone's hormone, protein or fat levels could compromise the safety of its milk or meat, stating "If companies

start marketing this food and there are problems it will bring the whole technology into disrepute."



Despite this track record of failure and concern about safety, some livestock breeders are using cloning in the hope that the technology will enable them to generate identical copies of prized animals with favorable characteristics.

*continued on page 2*