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30% Of Beef Consumed In Brazil Contains Anabolic Hormone Dangerous To Human Health

by Barbara Khol

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According to a report submitted to the Attorney General's office by University of Sao Paulo (USP) veterinarians, 30% of beef consumed in Brazil contains an anabolic hormone (diethylstilbestrol-DES) considered harmful to human health. USP researcher Enrico Lippi said ranchers use DES because animals gain weight at a rate of 5% to 20% within two to three months. DES residue in beef is responsible for cases of masculine sexual impotence, development of breasts in men, and serious organic disorders in adolescents. Attorney General Mario Luis Bonsaglia ordered an investigation of cattle ranches and meat packing operations, and has prohibited the use of anabolic hormones by livestock growers. In a statement to reporters in Rio de Janeiro, Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera said 17 meat packers were closed down last year due to such "irregularities." (Basic data from AFP, 08/19/91)

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