Extra credit

The FDA and USDA impact many different things in our everyday lives. My conception of these organizations primarily was concerned with food and drugsafety; however, I was unaware of the political and economic pressures faced by these two organizations and the diversity of products regulated of affected by the organization. It is surprising to learn that the FDA and USDA play a role in not just monitoring foods, drugs, and other substances, but also in how those items are marketed. For instance, the USDA's choice to limit the term " hormone-free" on meat was primarily due to competition between large and small suppliers in the market (Unit Six page 5). Similarly, the FDA changed terms like " irradiation" to " cold pasteurization" to improve sales, as consumers shy away from terms that involve radiation (Unit Six page 5). In these cases the organizations took no action to change processes or procedures, but merely took action to change a products placement in the market. It is surprising to consider the enormous impact these organization must therefore play in product sales, and even which companies are able to succeed in national markets. From this example, I learned that food safety may sometimes not play as large of a role as economics in the food we, as consumers, are led to believe is safe—or even more shockingly the medicines that we take for sicknesses and disabilities. In the future, knowledge of these pressures have convinced me to take a more proactive approach to my health by more closely inspecting health labels and researching processing techniques that may appear as ambiguous statements, such as the " cold pasteurization" example above. By taking a proactive approach, consumers, like myself, can make better, more informed decisions about their health and well-being. The can also act to be more involved in policy making on food and drugs and encourage truth in labeling

and advertising. Works Cited Unit Six…. (provided by customer, please correct with the citation from youx text book, as I don't know the name of the book!)