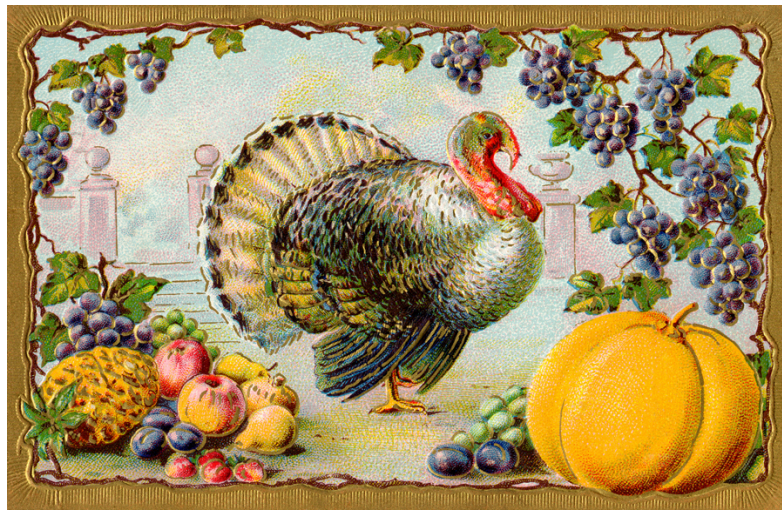




Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and ate lots of turkey because next year they might not be so lucky....



Because after January 2, 2013, the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA, which is responsible for the inspection of meat and poultry products, would have to reduce its funding to below 2008 levels, according to a Dear Colleague letter from Rep. Norm Dicks (WA-6). This would result in:

- Weeks of furloughs for inspectors, according to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, and since plants cannot operate without inspectors, they will have to open for fewer hours or even shut down.**
- Hundreds of thousands of plant workers would be adversely impacted, further creating financial repercussions for the meat and poultry industry.**
- Consumers would face higher prices for meat and poultry.**
- USDA's efforts to inspect food processing plants and prevent food-borne illnesses would be curtailed, according to an Office of Management and Budget report.**

Nonsensical across-the-board cuts to spending are NOT the answer!