

517

RECEIVED  
FSIS DOCKET ROOM

04 APR -6 AM 7:24

FSIS DOCKET CLERK, DOCKET #03-0251F  
102 COTTON ANNEX  
300 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET SW  
WASHINGTON DC 20250-3700

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in regards to a USDA rule banning the slaughter of all non-ambulatory or "downer" cattle for food.

As dairy producers, we feel this rule was made in haste – to reassure consumers after the discovery of one cow with Mad Cow disease in the United States. It should be amended to allow for cattle hurt through injury (whether from calving, or just plain slipping and hurting itself) provided they were healthy at the time of injury.

Asking us to dispose of these cattle is a waste of food and provides a great economic burden to livestock producers as well as processors.

While we understand the importance of providing safe meat to consumers, we feel the USDA went further than necessary when banning the slaughter of ALL non-ambulatory cattle and would appreciate your further consideration on this matter and action in making changes to the rule to allow for cattle who were perfectly healthy and injured to be sold for slaughter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jackie Miller*  
N1521 Dill Rd.  
Browntown, WI 53522