

February 3, 2004

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FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12th and C Street SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear USDA staff,

I am writing to submit comments about the USDA's ban on downer cows. Although I applaud your current efforts, I do not think they go far enough to protect the animals nor the consumers. **This decision to ban downers is long overdue and should be made permanent.**

If nothing else, this Mad Cow case in the US should teach the USDA the clear link connecting inhumane animal husbandry and public safety. We should not forget the animal welfare issue while shoring up the food safety problems. Bulldozing, dragging or hoisting crippled animals to the kill floor is not just unhealthy for people, it's cruel and unacceptable to animals. **Please make the ban apply to all farmed animals—not just cows. Also, please require that downed animals be euthanized.** An animal that is downed is clearly suffering and deserves humane treatment.

Thank you for considering these comments and please make them a part of any permanent record that is being kept of this issue. I am looking forward to your response to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Matt Rossell  
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Portland, OR 97211