

RE: Docket Number 03-025IF

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To Whom It May Concern,

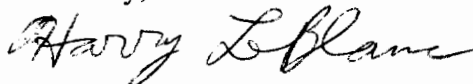
I am writing to express strong support for the USDA's proposed rule to prohibit downer cattle in the human food supply. It is amazing to me that these sick and injured animals were ever used for food in the first place. As a farmer myself, I would never allow inferior product into the hands of my customers.

I urge you to publish a final rule banning all downer and diseased cattle, in the food supply, and in addition, I urge you to ban all downed pigs, sheep, goats, and horse species from being used for human food. These species are subject to similar diseases and no one can assure there is no possibility of any such spongiform type disease from jumping the species barrier, which appears to have occurred with BSE.

Marketing and slaughtering downed animals for human consumption is a shortsighted dangerous practice and should be prohibited.

Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration in protecting our country's citizens from dangerous food and irresponsible food producers.

Sincerely,



Harry LeBlanc  
Beausol Gardens  
139 Beausol Lane  
Pittsboro, NC 27312