

374

Feb. 23, 2004

RECEIVED
FSIS DOCKET ROOM

Dear Sir

04 MAR - 1 PM 12: 36

I am writing in regard to ref. number 03-025 IF. We are dairy farmers and the ban on down cows is a real hardship on us. What are we supposed to do with these cows? We are not hunters so we don't have a gun to shoot them. If we have the vet put them down, then there is another expense plus Valley Protein won't take these cows. We have cows that split on slippery concrete, dislocate a hip, or have trouble calving and get a pinched nerve and just can't get up. There is nothing wrong with this meat. It is perfectly good meat and now has to be thrown away. It is such a waste. There has to be a use somewhere for this meat.

The money we get for these cows was a very small amount, maybe

\$50.00 to \$100.00 at the most so that
doesn't affect us as much as the fact
we have nowhere to get rid of these
cows. Please hear me again when I
say these are not sick cows but for
whatever reason they just can't walk.

We are asking you to please take
away this hardship for farmers and allow
the butcher shops to take our cows again.
We have enough other hardships to deal
with, we don't need one as unnecessary
as this to deal with yet.

Sincerely,

Joyce Harmon Hawke

4134 St. Thomas Will. Rd.

Chambersburg

Pa. 17201