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March 17, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700
Fax 202-690-0486
FSIS.Regulations@usda.gov

Re: Ban on Slaughter and Marketing of Downed Animals

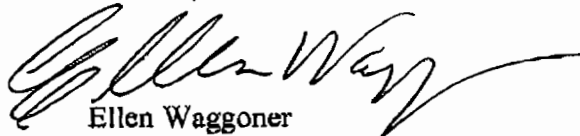
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the USDA's proposed rule prohibiting the slaughter and marketing of downed cattle for human food and requiring their humane euthanasia. In addition, I am urging the USDA to ban all downed animals -- including not only downed cows but also downed pigs, sheep, goats and equine species -- from entering the human food chain and to require the humane euthanasia of all downed animals.

It is shocking that any downed animals, no matter the species, have ever been allowed into the human food chain. Because downed animals are those most likely to be sick and suffer from neurological disorders and other diseases, allowing them into the food chain greatly increases the risk of bacterial contamination and human contraction of illnesses such as mad cow disease. In addition, downed animals are subjected to extremely cruel treatment, including being shocked, beaten, chained and dragged and even bulldozed to the slaughterhouse or abandoned at stockyards where they die slowly of starvation. Especially given that downed animals comprise such a small percentage of the animal slaughter "market," the risks to human health as well as the unbelievable cruelty inherent in this practice are not only irresponsible and unacceptable but also unnecessary.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Ellen Waggoner