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March 18, 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

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RE: Docket Number 03-025IF

Dear Sir or Madam:

I urge the USDA to retain the ban on downer cows, and to publish a final rule banning the use of all downed cattle for human consumption; in addition a requirement to quickly and humanely euthanize these animals should also be implemented. I am truly shocked that the USDA has been approving sick, downed animals for human food, and I stand in strong support for the USDA's new policy to ban downed cows from the human food supply. I further urge you to include other species, such as pigs and sheep, in the downer ban. Just as downed cattle are more likely to be afflicted with neurological diseases, sheep, pigs and other animal species too sick to stand are more likely to harbor scrapie or other CNS disorders.

Marketing downed animals for human food is inhumane and irresponsible to the public, and the practice should be prohibited. If this ban on downed cattle is not fully implemented, a boycott of non-organic, industrially-raised and slaughtered beef will be a likely solution to much of the aware public, including myself.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,



Alenna M. Sandy