

500

TO: FSIS DOCKET CLERK
FROM: APPALACHIAN DAIRY/FRANK & CAROL DOYLE
2524 Cross Section Rd.
Westminster, MD 21158
RE: "03-025 I F" DOWNER CATTLE

RECEIVED
FSIS DOCKET ROOM
04 APR -7 AM 10:25

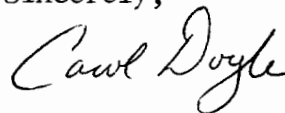
March 29, 2004

I am contacting your office regarding the ban of downer cattle from human consumption. My husband and I have been dairy farming for 21 years. This current ban creates two large problems for us. First, the loss of income from such an animal that has under most circumstances become a downer from slipping and splitting her pelvis, hard calving which causes pinched nerves, or possible leg breakage. Second, we now must pay to have the downer cow removed. Now farmers are hit twice losing income and having to pay for carcass removal.

It has been our experience through the years that down cows from sudden injury are not ill or sickly animals. The opposite is true. Usually it happens to one of a farmer's best animals. The meat from one such animal should not pose a health threat.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts. I can be contacted at the above address if you so desire.

Sincerely,



Carol Doyle
Owner/Operator

cc: file