

504

March 23, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk
03-025 IF
Room 102 Cotton Annex
300 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear Sirs:

RE: 03-025 IF

I am writing concerning the ban of downer cattle.

We operate a 200 head dairy farm and at times have cattle with acute injuries and were not able to stand due to a leg fracture or pinched nerve during calving. Before the ban, we could send such cattle to a butcher shop and be reimbursed for the meat. These cattle were not sick and were drug free.

Now, due to the ban of downer cattle, such cattle with the above injuries must be destroyed at our loss, pay to have the carcass hauled away and such a waste of good meat. Cattle with acute injuries should not be considered as a "Downer", because the injury happens suddenly and the cattle are drug free.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Mark E. Brandt