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To USDA:

My name is Phil, and I have a small processing plant in Ruthton, MN. I am writing because I have a concern about down beef.

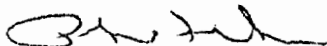
Down beef is around 20% of my business. Without the down beef, it could cause me to layoff some of my employees. Plus it could cause some small plants to close. I can understand your concerns about beef that go down from unknown causes. What we are asking for is to be able to process beef with known causes like broken legs.

The farmers have concerns because they will be throwing away good beef that they could utilize for their own consumption.

We would appreciate it if you would consider our request to be able to slaughter down beef.

I am asking this for our sake and the farmers.

Thank You,



Phil Schelhaas
Buffalo Ridge Locker