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USDA
Washington, D.C.

To United States Dept. of Ag.

We are family farmers and cattle feeders. It has come to our attention that the USDA has decided that we cannot butcher a fallen animal, for our own freezer, at anytime. We understand the departments concern with downer animals not being put into the food chain. However, we certainly do not understand the logistic that say's when a feeder is loading a semi of cattle and due to weather conditions or slippery ground an animal falls and gets hurt, that they cannot butcher that animal for their own consumption. Why is it okay for the other 139 head of cattle that were just loaded to be sold, but the one that falls and breaks a leg is not okay? This animal will be put into the farmers own freezer for his own consumption.

Once again, I ask you to rethink your policy and make it fair and equitable to us, the livestock producers of this nation. With the terrible loss of income that has resulted from one cow with mad cow disease, who incidentally came from Canada, we as farmers/feeders cannot stand this additional loss of income.

Sometimes decisions are made that just do not make sense. Our small lockers in our rural areas will not be able to withstand the loss that they will incur if this policy is not changed. We think that the USDA should do all that they can to see that our food supply is safe, but this policy is completely irrational.

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