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# P CROSS BAR RANCH

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FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03025IF  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12<sup>th</sup> and C Street  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Comments on Mouthing rule;

My wife and I are third generation cattle ranchers in Northeast Wyoming. We have been raising and feeding cattle for over 50 years.

We purchase several hundred yearling cattle each year and feed them out for the slaughter market. This mouthing rule if continued as proposed will force us to discontinue this enterprise unless we can purchase cattle with proof of age.

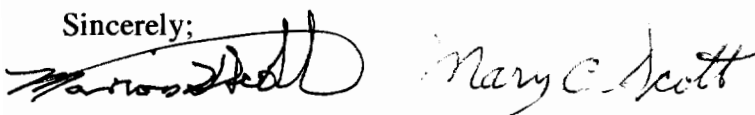
The third tooth arrives on many cattle younger than 30 months and causes us to take a heavy discount on many younger cattle because we cannot prove age.

We presently have over 300 of these cattle on feed and because of this present rule look to lose \$60 to \$100 per head on all cattle mouthing 30 months using the three tooth method. We fear 70% of these cattle will fall in that range.

We are unfairly being forced to take a sizeable financial loss this year on a rule that has no scientific basis on safety for the American consumer.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely;



Marion H. Scott    Mary C. Scott