



Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

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4 May 2004

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FSIS Docket Clerk
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250

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Dear Docket Clerk,


On behalf of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association (LCA) I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket No. 03-025IF regarding the "Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle". The LCA is a trade association representing Louisiana's cattle producers.

LCA commends the United States Department of Agriculture for taking further actions to ensure the safety of the human food supply. We understand that these measures are urgent and we are in support of their implementation. We would urge FSIS to strongly consider all comments received and carefully weigh the results of the enhanced surveillance program to be positive that these measures are appropriate for the true risk presented in the U.S.

FSIS has a policy in place to prohibit non-ambulatory disabled cattle from entering the human food supply. This ban applies to all non-ambulatory disabled cattle, whether sold to a federally inspected establishment, state inspected establishment, or a custom-exempt slaughter operation. The LCA Board of Directors has voted to support such a ban of non-ambulatory disabled cattle from the commercial food supply only.

LCA requests that FSIS introduce standards that allow cattle with broken legs occurring during loading or transport to be harvested for personal consumption. We maintain that these animals are not a threat to the human food supply and that this could be certified by an accredited veterinarian.

Sincerely,


Robert H. "Bob" Felknor
Executive Secretary
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

AFFILIATED WITH
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