

17

RECEIVED  
FSIS DOCKET ROOM  
04 FEB -9 PM 3: 04

January 30, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk  
Docket 03-0251F  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300 12<sup>th</sup> and C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

03-0251F-77  
03-0251F  
Patricia Stoll

I am writing to urge that the ban on downed cattle slaughter be made permanent. Allowing downed cattle, many of which are ill, to enter the human food supply, endangers the health of our citizens. In addition, it encourages those selling the animals to keep them alive until slaughter despite the fact that the animals are suffering and enduring pain. Pulling them to the slaughterhouse using tractors and chains can only be viewed as inhumane.

I also urge that the measure be expanded to include all downed animals---sheep, pigs and other livestock. In addition, I would request that the USDA add a requirement that all downed animals be humanely euthanized immediately, whenever they become downed.

Those in the business of raising animals for consumption, have chosen to view themselves as having dominion over food animals. Along with any role comes responsibility. Clearly, those in the field of agribusiness bear the responsibility of treating food animals humanely and with compassion. Animals can suffer and feel pain.

I urge all those who participate in any aspect of food animal production, transport, slaughter, or sale, to perform their role with the highest of ethical convictions. **Those charged with creating and enforcing the laws which oversee food animal production must take a leading role in raising the moral and ethical standards applied to agribusiness. Banning the slaughter of downed animals and requiring that they be humanely euthanized when they become downed, is an important beginning.**

Respectfully,



Patricia Stoll  
27 Western Avenue  
Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010