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Valerie Gleaton

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I commend the USDA on finally banning the use of downed cows for slaughter and human consumption. I understand that agribusiness is pressuring the USDA to overturn this ban. On the contrary, the ban should be strengthened and stricter. Please consider these suggestions:

1. Make the ban permanent. How can we ever expect to be rid of diseases like mad cow when we keep negating the very *few* regulations we instate?

2. Apply the ban to all animals, not just cows. All livestock in factory farming is subject to the same abuse- why not the same regulations? Disease is just as possible for pigs, sheep, chickens, etc. I only hope it does not require an even worse one than mad cow to convince the public and the government to stop catering to these special interest groups, while putting our health at risk.

3. Require that all downed animals be humanely euthanized. It is entirely the fault of the industry, not of these abused animals, that diseases such as mad cow are allowed to profligate. Please do not contribute to their suffering by blaming them or even denying them a dignified death.

Not eating meat until something substantial is done,

Valerie Gleaton

3201 Argonne Forest Lane

Duncanville, AL 35456

Lobstrmoon@aol.com