

January 3, 2001

3618 '01 JAN 12 12:09

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket number 98P-0151/CPI

Dear Sir or Madam:

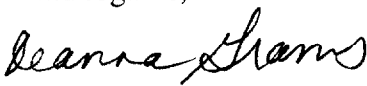
I am writing to applaud your decision last year to stop purchasing meat from downed cows (AKA "downers") for Federal programs such as the National School lunch Program. However, I think the USDA should take an additional step towards more humane laws for raising animals for human consumption. The marketing of sick and injured animals is unacceptable. It concerns me that the USDA or any other government agency would approve meat for human consumption from an animal that cannot walk from disease or may be riddled with cancer.

Moving sick or injured animals into slaughter halls by dragging them behind tractors or using forklifts doesn't seem humane to me. With the rise of "mad cow disease" across Europe and the deaths of those in England from the related Cruetzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) we should be concerned. The USDA and other government agencies that deal with food for human consumption should take a lesson from Europe. Dying from CJD is an ugly death.

America is a great country. Historically, we have always been proud of our ability to grow extraordinary produce and raise animals for food, often for export. Quality has always been a priority, at least it has in the past. But, times have changed. Small farms are a thing of the past. Large industrial farms are the norm these days and unfortunately, I believe that, like most businesses, the bottom line is the most important thing. While I agree that it's important to turn a profit, I believe we can do more. We can treat animals with respect and with humanity.

I urge you to expand your policy and ban the method of killing "downers" for human consumption. I also urge you to mandate more humane treatment of all animals that will be slaughtered for human consumption. Please, encourage and implement humane policies for the animals' sake and for our own.

Kind regards,

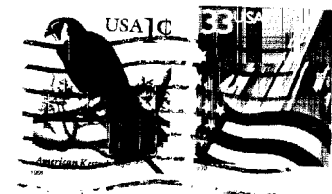


Deanna Grams  
557 Elizabeth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

C3320

98P-0151

Shams  
557 Elizabeth  
SF CA 94114



United States Food & Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD  
20852

