

February 3, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Adm.
Docuts Mngmt Br.
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Md 20852

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Docket #98P-0151/CP1

I am writing because I believe that downed animals could be prevented with better care and handling. I do believe these animals should be removed from market. A farmer would rather get money for a downed animal brought to market to be slaughtered, but I also believe a farmer should be responsible raising animals for slaughter to know that when an animal is sick, or injured that animal would not qualify for being slaughtered. That animal should be euthasized instead and the farmer should consider this a loss that sometimes happen. Not every animal ends up on the dinner table. A farmer makes money and a farmer looses money. It is the way of life for a farmer.

There is an increased risk for bacterial infection and possible "Mad Cow Disease" with downed animals. I understand 90% of downed animals can be prevented, with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals provides an incentative to the farming industry to prevent downed animals in the first place. Farmers should be responsible care takers of the animals they raise. If an animal is injured or ill a responsible farmer should do the humane thing and have that injured or sick animal euthasized. That is the right thing to do. And it is about time farmers do the right thing.

I do not care to hear that by slaughtering a downed animal I or someone I know could be at an increased risk for some sort of infection by eating the meat of this particular animal that was not well and was too ill or injured to walk or stand. It is time for the farmer that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration make into law Document 98P-0'51/CP1 to remove the market for downed animal.

Thank you for reading my letter.


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