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01-027N

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01-027N-2
C. H. Allen

Dear Sirs:

Subject: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Current Thinking Paper

I fully appreciate your efforts and recognize your responsibility to minimize human exposure to meat food products from cattle that could contain the infective agent that causes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

I concur with the FSIS belief that cattle offered for slaughter in the U.S. are primarily young cattle, page 8. However, this is not the case within the U.S. Dairy Industry. Cull dairy cow are primarily older and contribute significantly to lean meat production in the U.S. Prohibiting the slaughter of Dairy Cows older that 24 months would have a major economic impact on the entire dairy industry and the consumer price of beef. As you continue to develop risk assessment models including age of slaughter, I suggest that the economic impact on the U.S. Dairy Industry be included as a variable.

Sincerely,

C. H. Allen
County Extension Director