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Rawlins, Wyoming
February 1, 2004

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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-025IF
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street, SW
Washington DC 20250-3700

03-025IF-132
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Jerry Faddis

Dear Whom ever:

I just read about the back door implementation of ageing cattle.

I do not agree with the tactics that was used to implement the ageing process.

Nor do I agree with the way that the aging process is being done.

Not all cattle age at the same age.

I will ask you men: Did each of you start growing whiskers and shaving at the same age as your brothers, or your dad? Did your voice change at the same age as your brothers or dad? No, they did not. You are all of the same genetic make-up, yet each of you matured at a different age.

I will ask you women: Did each of you start growing boobs at the same age as your sisters or your mother? Did your periods begin at the same age as your sisters or your mother? And if you are old enough, did you go through the change of life at the same time. No you did not. Again, you are of the same genetic make-up as your parents and sisters, yet each of you matured at a different age.

Cattle are the same. They may have the same genetic make-up and the same parents, yet they all mature a different ages. No one has any control over when one will mature. Each breed matures at different ages. If one had control over maturity, those few people who are 18 or 20 years old would not have chosen to mature so quickly to become the age of those of 70 or 80 and die at such a young age.

Get that idiotic rule off the books! Stop writing rules and bringing them in the back door! Lets have some good common sense before you write rules such as this. Stop playing into the hands of the packers. They are enjoying this idiotic rule and making money at it. The packers are holding feeders and producers hostage with this rule.

Sincerely,
Jerry Faddis