

FSIS Docket Clerk

Docket 03-0251F

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We are pleased to learn that Secretary Veneman banned the slaughter of downed cows for human consumption. However she should hold the line against weakening changes and maintain USDA's interpretation of downers - i.e., all non-ambulatory disabled animals, regardless of the reason they are unable to stand or walk (illness, injury, or a combination). Also, the ban should be extended to cover any species of downed animals - not just cows but also pigs, sheep and other livestock - and to require their humane euthanasia. We are deeply concerned about the terrible suffering downed animals are subjected to.

Wimpy and John Renta