

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket 03-0251F
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C Street SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3700
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To whom it may concern:

Ban Downed Animal Slaughter Forever! Please approve the permanent and final version of a ban prohibiting the slaughter of “downed” cattle — those who are too sick or injured to stand or walk on their own.

On Monday, January 12, the USDA published its proposed guidelines for dealing with BSE, including a prohibition on the slaughter of downed cattle. These rules, which are open for public comment, stipulate “all non-ambulatory disabled cattle presented for slaughter be condemned.”

Thank you for your emergency measures to ban the slaughter of downed cattle for human consumption. It is imperative to make the ban permanent, and to include all downed animals — sheep, pigs and other livestock, as well as all downed cattle — in the final ban. Finally, I ask that the USDA add a requirement that all downed animals be humanely euthanized immediately, wherever they become downed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Penny Rhodes

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