

194 February 12, 2004

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ESIS DOCKET ROOM  
USDA Food Safety Inspection Service  
Docket 0304 FEB 12 AM 10:13  
Room 102, Cotton Annex  
300-12<sup>th</sup> and C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Dear Sirs/Ms.:

Upon confirmation of Mad Cow Disease (BSE) in the U.S., your agency's announcement of a ban on the use of downed cows for human consumption was a case of too little, too late. It was based on the beef industry's immediate need to protect sales of domestic beef and to overcome an international embargo, and had nothing to do with animal protection or any animal protection group.

The proposed regulations are defective in several major respects. Although purporting to ban the use of meat from downed cattle, your agency's new policy continues to allow the abuse and exploitation of non-ambulatory pigs, sheep and other farm animals. There is no requirement that downed cattle be humanely euthanized immediately upon discovery. I ask that your agency include all farm animals in the ban on downers. Non-ambulatory pigs, sheep and other animals can suffer just as much as cattle. All diseased and disabled animals, regardless of their species, can pose serious threats to human health. I urge your agency to explicitly require the humane euthanasia of non-ambulatory animals immediately upon their discovery at stockyards, slaughterhouses, and other facilities.

(over-please)