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FSIS Docket Clerk

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Room 102 Cotton Annex

300 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20250-3700

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter in regards to the recent ban on down cows. I'm assuming this ban took place because of the recent outbreak of mad cow disease, however each down cow previously was tested for the disease - so what is the point? To hurt farmers even more? Farmers work so hard for their money + now the government is posing more economic difficulties on us.

If a cow falls and breaks a bone ~~there~~ there is nothing wrong with the meat; but now, there is nowhere to take them. That cow is a total loss to us. Cows often break bones, split themselves or pinch nerves during birthing. These are not cows with mad cow disease but normal healthy cows, with normal healthy meat!

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I have only been married seven years to a farmer and have seen many, many down cows. Now I find out these are banned for human consumption, which is totally ridiculous, and only hurting us (the farmers). This will indeed pose yet another economic hardship on us and I beg you reverse your ban - at least on acute injury cows. Consider how you can help farmers more instead of hurting us.

I know your concerned about the public but if the meat cow is tested anyway what's the point?

Please consider what we've asked. Farmers have enough difficulty to keep in business. We're trying to buy a farm but at this rate who knows if it will ever happen. We need farmers to provide food for the rest of you, whether they realize that or not. And we need money to be able to farm, not more losses. Thanks for what you'll do. Sincerely, Heidi Genny Peir