

February 9, 2004

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

RE: Docket Number 03-025IF

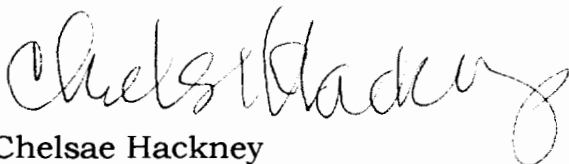
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for the USDA's proposed rule to prohibit downer cattle in the human food supply and to require that these animals be humanely euthanized. I was shocked and appalled to learn that these sick and injured animals were being used for food in the first place. Besides being unhealthy for our food supply, it is irresponsible to treat animals in our care in such a callous manner. These animals deserve our protection. Prohibiting their use as human food would encourage farmers and ranchers to take better care of the animals.

I urge you to publish a final rule banning all downed cattle, those unable to stand and walk, in the food supply, and in addition, I ask you to consider a ban on all downed pigs, sheep, goats, and equine species from being used for human food. Just as downer cattle are more likely to have mad cow disease, downed sheep, pigs and other species are more likely to be afflicted with neurological disorders.

Marketing and slaughtering downed animals for human food is cruel and irresponsible, and the practice should be prohibited. Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Chelsae Hackney
26 Fredericks Court
Woodland, CA 95776