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From: jitle@nb.net%INTER2 [mailto:jitle@nb.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2004 6:22 AM

To: Webmaster

Subject: Other

I would like to make a few comments in regard to slaughter of down cows. I as a food animal practitioner need a way to legally slaughter a down disabled injured animal for use by the owner of the animal. The cold weather that we are having now makes it possible for the owner of a broken leg bovine to slaughter the animal himself and keep it before he cuts the animal up and places in cold storage. When summer weather comes this will not be possible.

There has to be a way where the attending veterinarian at the farm can exam the down bovine animal and fill out an antemortem inspection form as to cause of the animal being down and thus permit the salvage of the animal for use by the owner.

This process could also possibly be used before an animal is submitted to a USDA inspected plant if the slaughter of such animals is permitted in the future. It seems odd to me to associate all down animals as being diseased. I doubt if not slaughtering down animals is going to make BSE go away. Most all of the animals I have diagnosed with CNS signs such as rabies, listeriosis, lead poisoning etc. has been done on standing animals. I would assume if the opportunity arises I would diagnose BSE on a standing animal rather than a down animal.

I personally think the attending veterinarian at the farm of origination of the down animal has to be the antemortem inspector of all down and diseased animals.

Thank you,
Joe Itle V.M.D.