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FSIS Docket Clerk
03-025 I F
Room 102 Cotton Annex
300 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

February 20, 2004

Ref: 03-025 I F

Dear Sirs:

There is not any medical or logical reason to include cattle with structural injuries such as broken bones, hip displacements, etc. in the ban on downer cattle for meat consumption. These animals are not sick or diseased.

The present ban on injured cattle puts a serious burden on livestock owners. The owner not only suffers an economic loss from not being able to sell the animal but is also given the unpleasant task of destroying the animal and finding some means for removal (usually by paying a rendering company for the removal).

The Department of Agriculture should use common sense and show some understanding of the farmer's problem by removing the ban for injured animals.

Sincerely,

James P. Heppner

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