

3/10/04

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APR 10 11 00 AM '04
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FSIS, DOCKET CLERK, DOCKET 03-0251F
ROOM 102 COTTON ANNEX
300 12TH AND C STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20250-3700

THE RULE ON THE MOUTHING OF CATTLE IS UNREAISTIC AND SHOULD
BE CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY..THE ERUPTION OF THE THIRD INCISOR
IS NOT AN ACCURATE METHOD OF DETERMING THAT CATTLE ARE 30
MONTHS OF AGE...

TOO MANY YOUNG CATTLE ARE BEING PENALIZED BECAUSE OF THIS
METHOD....PROFESSIONAL CATTLE PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE QUALIFIED
THAN WASHINGTON BUREACRATS TO MAKE THIS JUDGMENT...

IT IS THE OPINION OF PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN (PEOPLE WHO HAVE
DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO THE INDUSTRY) THAT THE ERUPTION OF THE
FIFTH PERMANENT INCISOR WOULD BE THE CORRECT METHOD OF
DETERMINING THE 30 MONTHS OF AGE CRITERIA..

JOHN TORPEY
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Please correct immediately !!