

451

**ZULLINGER MEAT CO. INC.**  
**5054 DESIGN AVE.**  
**P.O. BOX 280**  
**ZULLINGER, PA 17272**  
**EST: 19450**  
**PHONE: (717)-765-6565**  
**FAX: (717)-765-6593**  
**E-MAIL: jsheaffer@innernet.net**

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## **PRIMARY OPTION**

**COMMENTS:** PRETAINING TO 03-025 IF

**SECTION:** BAN OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

**MAIN TOPIC OF COMMENT:** LIFT ING BAN, TESTING AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

**PAST:** SAMPLING FOR BSE ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE IN THIS FACILITY.

**PRESENT:** NO SAMPLING FOR BSE ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE SINCE THE BAN, IN THIS FACILITY.

**FUTURE:** LIFT THE BAN ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE, RETURN THEM BACK TO SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WITH SAMPLING AND TESTING OF ALL THESE NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE.

Here at Zullinger Meat Co. Inc. we would like to make a suggestion for your consideration on the plan to continue sampling and possible testing for BSE in Non-Ambulatory cattle in this facility.

### **A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY**

The plant is located in Franklin County PA, just outside of Waynesboro in Zullinger, PA. The location is approximately 75 miles North of Washington D.C. and 75 miles South of Harrisburg PA. Centrally located between many farming communities. The plant was built in 1997, at a cost of close to a million dollars. The facility is 8,000 sq. ft. on 5 acres of land and was designed especially for Non-Ambulatory cattle slaughter. The plant has ample cooler space to hold tested animals; also a walk-in freezer is available. A delivery dock is in place for receiving supplies. The plant has been a government facility with a full-time veterinarian inspector since start-up. There is also ample parking space available.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY AND PLAN**

The current method of tracking animals is in place and working. The plant here in Zullinger, PA could be once again a sampling facility of Non-Ambulatory cattle (which are at high risk). We have had access to these animals for years and know we can provide enough Non-Ambulatory cattle for APHIS to check daily. Also a lab could be set up right in the plant for sampling, testing and tracking Non-Ambulatory cattle. The tracking system already in place could be maintained for this testing. There has been sampling for BSE at this facility as late as 2003. We have gotten in the past Non-Ambulatory cattle from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. We could once again have them located to one spot for the convenience of sampling, and possible testing for BSE on Non-Ambulatory cattle here at this facility.

## **ECONOMIC LOSS + EFFECT OF THE BAN ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE**

**THE FACILITY: 90% LOSS OF BUSINESS (VALUED AT 1,000,000.00 PER YEAR APPROX.) IN THIS FACILITY**

**THE FARMERS: 100% LOSS OF THE VALUE OF THEIR NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE AND THE FACILITY TO TAKE THEIR NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE. (VALUED AT 700,000.00 PER YEAR APPROX.) IN THIS FACILITY**

**THE USDA, APHIS AND ARS: 100% LOSS OF SAMPLING AND TESTING OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE AT THIS FACILITY AND THAT'S JUST THIS FACILITY MANY MORE EXIST.**

## **ANSWER TO THESE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE BAN ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE**

LIFT THE BAN, BY ANY SCIENTIFIC WAY POSSIBLE RETURN NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE BACK TO SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION WITH SAMPLING AND TESTING OF THESE CATTLE. WHEN SAMPLE RESULTS FOR BSE ARE NEGATIVE COW CAN BE RELEASED WITH PEACE OF MIND.

## **ECONOMIC FACTOR WITH A LIFT OF THE BAN ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE**

LIFTING THE BAN BY A SCIENTIFIC WAY WILL STIMULATE THE ECONOMY WITH A PEACE OF MIND, TESTED MEAT PRODUCT BY NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE. THE FACILITY WILL PROVIDE COMPENSATION AS IT HAS IN THE PAST TO FARMER FOR TESTED AND PASSED MEAT FROM NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE WHICH CAN BE USED TO MAKE A PEACE OF MIND, HOLSOM PRODUCT. USDA, APHIS, ARS WILL AGAIN HAVE A FACILITY TO TEST FOR BSE.

## **FINAL WORD**

THE PUBLIC NEEDS TESTING, OVERSEAS MARKETS NEEDS TESTING, THE USDA, APHIS AND ARS NEED TESTING MATERIALS. BANNING THE NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE WAS NOT THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF BSE. TESTING WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORE REASONABLE SOLUTION. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ANN VENERMAN NEEDS TO RECONSIDER HER POSITION CONCERNING THE BAN ON NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE. LIFT THE BAN WITH THE INTENTION TO TEST ALL NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE FOR BSE. SECRETARY OF AG. ANN VENERMAN IS LOOKING FOR CONSIDERATION FROM THE PUBLIC FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR A NEW STATE OF THE ART LAB. WHAT KIND OF CONSIDERATION WAS INTENDED FOR FACILITY'S WHICH KILLED PRIMARILY NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE AND THE FARMERS WHO LOST EVERYTHING IN THEIR NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE. WHILE THERE IS A STATE OF THE ART LAB IN IOWA, NON-AMBULATORY FACILITY WILL BE CLOSING WITH MANY JOBS LOST NOT TO MENTION ECONOMIC RUIN FOR MANY INCLUDING THE FARMER WHO LOSS EVEN MORE MONEY. SOUND REASONING FOR SECRETARY ANN VENERMAN TO CONSIDER.

## **ONE MORE COMMENT**

**FACILITY:** GETS BACK 90% OF BUSINESS

**FARMERS:** GET BACK CATTLE THEY OWN

**USDA, APHIS, ARS:** GETS BACK A SAMPLING FACILITY

**Thanks for you consideration,**

**ZULLING MEAT CO. INC.**

**Donald M. Sheaffer, President**

**Jeffrey L. Sheaffer, Sec.**

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**FAX: (717)-765-6673**  
**E-MAIL: jsheaffer@innernet.net**

**SECOND OPTION**

**COMMENTS: PRETAINING TO 03-025 IF**  
**SECTION: BAN OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE FOR HUMAN**  
**CONSUMPTION.**  
**MAIN TOPIC: REDEFINITION OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE WITH**  
**ACUTE INJURIES.**

Here at Zullinger Meat Co. Inc. we would like to make a suggestion for your consideration that a redefinition of Non-Ambulatory cattle. Cattle with acute injuries should not be considered Non-Ambulatory cattle.

**ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**

**THE FACILITY: 90% LOSS OF BUSINESS (VALUED AT 1,000,000.00 PER YEAR APPROX.)**

**THE FARMER: 100% LOSS OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE AND THE FACILITY TO TAKE THEIR NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE FOR DUE COMPENSATION (VALUED AT 700,000.00 PER YEAR APPROX.)**

**EXAMPLE: DEC. 2003- FARMER BROUGHT ALL 309 COWS THIS MONTH OF THOSE CATTLE 231 OF THOSE BEING NON-AMBULATORY.**

**JAN. 2004 AFTER THE BAN ON DEC 31 THE TOTALS FOR THIS MONTH ARE AS FOLLOWS 239 COWS 65 BROUGHT BY FARMERS 173 BOUGHT AT AUCTION BY THE FACILITY**

THESE CATTLE FROM AUCTION ARE BREAK-EVEN COWS, TIL SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO REDEFINE ACUTE INJURIES IN CATTLE, WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN FOR OUR EMPLOYEES AND THE FARMER THAT HAVE COME TO RELY ON THE FACILITY TO RECOVER SOME OF THEIR LOSS.

**Thanks for your consideration,**  
**ZULLINGER MEAT CO. INC.**  
**Donald M. Sheaffer, President**  
**Jeffrey L. Sheaffer, Sec.**