

503

March 10, 2004

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

SUBJECT: 03-025 I F

We operate a family dairy farm. As you probably are already aware, dairy farmers are being forced out of business due to the low price of milk. Not are we only trying to survive the high costs of operation with 1960 milk prices we are now losing a way to salvage a complete loss of a down cow. Not only have you incurred an economic hardship by the ban on downers, but it has been done so without much thought. A healthy cow that has an acute injury such as broken bones, pinched nerves from calving, or possibly split herself on slippery concrete areas may be down but is in no way what some people think of as a downer (ears drooping, down from severe infection or unknown reasons).

When a ban like ~~this is imposed~~ it should be done so with people who will be impacted and have ~~experience~~ and knowledge on the subject.

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