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March 23, 2004

To whom it may concern,

I am a dairy farmer in Wisconsin.

I feel the USDA went too far by banning all non-ambulatory cattle.

No matter how careful one can be, animals still fall and get hurt to the point they can't stand. When this happens to us, we have the animal butchered for our own use. A cow that gets hurt makes excellent hamburger. One time we had a Holstein steer break its leg right in front of us.

That steer was worth \$1000. USDA'S rule now would ~~not~~ allow us to have that steer butchered for our own use.

I feel this is a terrible waste and wish USDA would reconsider the rule on down animals.

Thank you for your time

Eugene Keyler

11110 Tri County Rd.

Waterloo WI. 53594

Phone 930-478-2263