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March 26, 2004

Steve Brake,

In regards to your concerns to the slaughtering of non ambulatory cattle, I feel that an animal that has a broken extremity is far better to butcher for human consumption than an animal that is walking, sick, and has a fever. U.S.D.A.'s rulings making it illegal to slaughter non ambulatory cattle that have broken extremities goes against good judgment because it keeps a perfectly good animal out of the food chain, but a sick animal that can walk is allowed to be used for human consumption.

I feel that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's proposed rules for slaughtering of non ambulatory animals is a step in the right direction. It still prevents the slaughtering of suspect cattle because a veterinarian has to verify the reason the animal went down. As a processor, I have a very hard time telling a customer that an animal with a broken extremity cannot be slaughtered, (especially with the price of cattle.) and put into their own freezer to be served to their own family.

I feel that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is grabbing the bull by the horns and taking a step in the right direction by letting cattle with broken extremities be slaughtered for the producers own use.

Brian Chapa



Owner of the Ellsworth Locker