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USDA  
ISIS Docket Clerk  
Docket No. IFFY  
102 Cotton Annex  
300 Thea St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Dear USDA,

As a dairy producer and a consumer, I do understand some of the urgency involved in the USDA deciding not to allow downer cattle to be used for human consumption. I would agree that many of the downer cattle don't belong on the consumer market, also.

I believe the current USDA decision may not have been a good decision for a number of reasons. One reason that I would disagree with the program is that all downer cattle are coming into a few slaughter plants via cow ambulances and other salvage vehicles. There was a better way to test for all diseases and other illnesses. As it stands now, the USDA does not have that option available.

Most down cows are left to die on the farm, because the farmer keeps them in hopes of a recovery from the cow's illness or injury.

Another reason for concern is that healthy animals that go down during transportation are now considered a downer cow. The seriousness of the injury should be considered...why...because this animal is now a downer cow and there really isn't anything wrong with the meat. WHAT A WASTE!!! This animal's minor back or leg injury prevents a food source from being used.

Trained meat inspectors can tell the difference between a sick animal that should not be used as a meat source and an animal that got injured during transport. The trucker who has transported this animal should know the difference as well. More inspectors need to be trained to do the best job to protect the consumer as well as the producer.

Americans waste more food than any other country. What a shame!

I know consumers need top quality and safe meat. I totally agree.

I also know that as a producer why waste a good animal when better methods of transportation and detection will aid in that decisions making. It will protect everyone.

▲ Concerned Farmer,

Robert Dorn