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Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12TH and C Street
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Hello,

I am a cattle rancher and have been at it for 45 years. Once in a great while, I try to butcher for myself and kin or friends a beef. Like with all other ranchers, NATURALLY we are going to sell every animal we can that is first class so that we can salvage each animal to help pay ranch expenses, such as feed costs and busted pickups. That leaves us ranchers, who are mostly on a tight, pitiful budget, to eat the not-choice animals for our own use.

All "downer" cattle are not "sick" cattle. Accidents happen at the ranch as well as on trucks to market. Cattle break their legs or have some such crippling accident, sometimes at roundup time or breeding or calving times.

These accidents that happen, mostly on icy ground in the wintertime, are healable and the animals are generally put in a feedlot and fed and either healed up to butcher later, or if they are in good condition at the time, are butchered at home on the spot to keep the animal in good condition. As long as the crippled animal does not get overly stressed with a lapse of time before butchering, the meat is good.

Now, if you pass a law to include all downer cattle as not to butcher, you are just going to be making criminals out of some of us ranchers that are trying to salvage some of our own meat so that we can get some return of long-time investments out of our own animals. It definitely should not be against the law to butcher a calf with crooked feet from birth that I may raise up to butcher later, or an animal that had his nose, ears, and lips chewed off by coyotes while he was being born. That doesn't make the meat questionable. The coyotes don't think it does and I can attest to the fact that coyotes aren't stupid, they have extra-sharp noses and instincts, and they butcher only the best when available, or otherwise only when starving. I have never seen any starving coyotes lately, for many years. They and their cousins, the fox and wolves, dine first class. The hokey you dudes have heard about these wild canines eating and killing only the sick, weak, young, and old is crap. They eat whatever is handiest and best.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
Charlene Perry