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GOLDEN RIVER DAIRY
RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM
David & Sue Brown
9019 South River Road, Cheboygan MI 49721
04 APR 13 AM 9:44



April 14, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to address "Downer Cows". We are dairy farmers in Northern Michigan. Several times through out the year we have what you refer to as "downer cows". We never labeled them that way. However we have cows that sometimes give birth and have a pinched nerve, we'll work with these animals to try and help them up and survive, sometimes this does not happen, so we load these non-diseased animals on a trailer and take them to be butchered. We can at least salvage the meat from these animals. These holstein cows are worth on the market today anywheres from \$1500-2000. Imagine that you cannot salvage the meat cause these cows cannot walk. Sometimes you might have a cow that does the splits, or breaks a leg or something of that sort. There should be a leniency in the law that allows the farmer to butcher these animals for their own use. How would you like to raise a beef for yourself and have the animal break it's leg or do the splits in winter, then along comes the government and tells you ok now you have a downer cow and you can't butcher it, your whole investment is gone.

I believe somewhere in the hysteria with the mad cow disease that was found in that one animal, no consideration was made to allow farmers to be able to slaughter their animals if they cannot walk into the butcher shop. Their meat is still good, what in the world were the political policy makers thinking when they grouped all downers in the diseased downer category? This is a tragic thing that you have imposed on farmers and something needs to be done to correct this. I'll bet if the politicians were farming they would understand more. I called Bart Stupak and Debbie Stabanow in Michigan and didn't even get any response at all. You need to correct the injustice that you are doing to the farmer by clarifying downer cows to be just diseased cows and not cows that just can't walk because of a broken leg, pinched nerve, or did the splits!! Thank you for reading this.

Respectfully Yours,
Sue Brown
Mrs. Sue Brown