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To: USDA

Concerning: BSE and Possible Downer Rule  
From: Shirl M. Reay, Former Voc. Ag. Instructor  
for 37 years and now a Rancher.

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I recommend great reasoning and good judgement be used to develop the Downer Rule and set <sup>its</sup> standard in concrete. Good common sense must prevail. Cattle can be "sound" before and during loading and then get down during a haul and become a downer at unloading.

An animal may be OK in a pasture one day and the next day have a broken leg and cannot get up. ~~the next day~~

There are many other situations that can occur where valuable meat could be salvaged.

For an example, last summer my herd bull broke a leg somehow. I had the butcher come and we salvaged about 1300 pounds of good hamburger that my son and daughter's families made good use of.

I would suggest using a witness statement of before hand observation of a suspect animal. If a witness can be used in a Court Room then it could be used for downers

Shirl M. Reay  
20920 Hwy. 26/93 Carey, Idaho 8332