
From: Dutcher, Scot [Scot.Dutcher@AG.STATE.CO.US]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2006 2:08 PM
To: FSIS RegulationsComments
Subject: Pro-Horse Slaughter

I am so glad to hear that these processing plants will continue to operate! As long as unwanted horses have monetary value, equine overpopulation is a manageable issue. Animal shelters across the U.S. euthanize about 8,000,000 pet animals per year because there are not enough homes for them. No anti-horse slaughter legislation that I have seen to date addresses what will be done with an extra 60-70,000 horses per year if slaughter is made illegal. Although I realize the equine population is not likely to grow to the extent the pet animals do, overpopulation will still become an exponential problem in years to come without the viable (and useful) alternative of equine slaughter. Being active in the equine industry, I would rather see a horse go to some useful purpose, even if it is human consumption, rather than see it abandoned and forgotten about or at best, humanely euthanized and discarded with the trash in a landfill.

thank you,

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