

September 2, 2008

Docket Clerk, USDA
Food Safety & Inspection Service
Room 2534 South Agriculture Bldg.
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Docket # FSIS-2008-0022

We encourage the USDA to adopt the proposed rules regarding the Disposition of Downer Cattle. Specifically, we fully support the USDA's proposal to exclude all downed cattle, including those who may become downed after inspection at slaughterhouses, from being slaughtered. Instead, these animals should be humanely euthanized on the spot.

We encourage the FSIS to extend its ban on the slaughter of downed cattle to cover ALL downed livestock – including pigs, goats, sheep, and others.

No crippled or sick animal should suffer gratuitously, and the public deserves the assurance that its health is a priority when it comes to the food supply.

Sincerely,



Nazen Merjian
VFA