

RD 1 Box 34
18, 2000

October

Dover Plains, NY 12522 9514 '00 OCT 24 P2:03

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern over the trade in "downed" animals (docket number 98P-0151/CP1). There are currently bills in both the House and Senate with wide support in both houses regarding downed animals. The concern is for ethical reasons as well as human health risks which are unacceptable.

"Downed" animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

Also, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

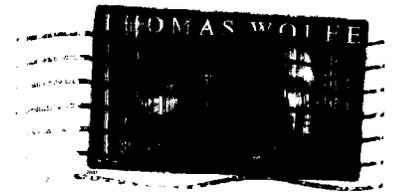
Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% percent of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,


Cecilia Stancell

98P-0151

C2409



U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

20652/1750

