

February 25, 2001

8966 '01 FEB 28 P2:39

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Number 98P-0151/CPI

Please grant the above petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. It is essential that this petition be granted for the following reasons:

- Animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be permitted 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 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, a disease linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
- It is not possible 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 small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- Industry experts have estimated that 90% 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,

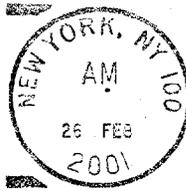


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