



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA'S PROPOSED RULE TO BAN NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE**

Oakland, CA – The USDA today announced a proposed rule to amend the Federal meat inspection regulations to initiate a complete ban on the slaughter of cattle that become non-ambulatory after initial inspection by Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection program personnel.

On April 22, NMA, together with the American Meat Institute and the National Milk Producers Federation, petitioned the USDA to discontinue allowing cattle that become non-ambulatory following the initial ante-mortem inspection to be reinspected and enter the beef supply.

This proposed rule follows the May 20 announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer to remove the provision that states that FSIS inspection program will determine the disposition of cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after they have passed ante-mortem, before slaughter, inspection on a case-by-case basis. Under the proposed rule, all cattle that are non-ambulatory disabled at any time prior to slaughter, including those that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection, will be condemned and properly disposed of.

“NMA’s members harvest and process cattle for the commercial food supply. We are pleased that USDA has responded to an industry request for absolute clarity to ensure that non-ambulatory cattle will not be allowed to enter the food system,” said NMA CEO & Executive Director Barry Carpenter.

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.