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CUSTOM SLAUGHTER AND PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK

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TO: AAMP MEMBERS
MEAT SLAUGHTERS AND MEAT PROCESSORS

The following document pertains to custom cattle slaughter and processing of farm dressed livestock and/or carcasses that come mobile livestock slaughter operations. Mike Mamminga (*Bureau Chief, Iowa Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau*) submitted the questions and answers are from FSIS Technical Service Center (Omaha, NE).

QUESTION 1

Has the ban now been further defined, explained, or expanded to include all non-ambulatory disabled beef that are farm slaughtered, regardless of age and regardless of the nature of the condition that puts the animal "down". The beef would be delivered to a plant either as "dead and bled", in carcass form, or perhaps in parts, pieces, or trim for further processing at the federal/state plant into NOT FOR SALE products for the owners exclusive use as per 9CFR Part 303?

ANSWER

Non-ambulatory disabled cattle are not eligible for slaughter. Delivered carcasses or parts of carcasses are still allowed to be processed at custom exempt plants; these carcasses and/or parts cannot come from non-ambulatory disabled cattle.

QUESTION 2

Farm killed beef in the past often include "routine" slaughter for a variety of reasons, such as the custom/exempt plant does not have slaughter facilities, or for the perceived convenience of the producer, or for financial savings on the processing bill, or because the beef was simply to wild to load. Is there any distinction in the ban for "routine" farm slaughter?

ANSWER

"Routine slaughter" (such as a wild animal) is not prohibited. But non-ambulatory disabled cattle are considered adulterated and are not for edible product.

QUESTION 3

And the answer to this question might easily answer all three of my questions. Must all cattle delivered for un-inspected "custom" slaughter and processing be received by the plant both alive and ambulatory? If the answer is "yes" then "dead and bled" custom/exempt cattle, their carcass or parts will no longer be eligible to enter commerce for completion of the slaughter/processing processes at a plant under federal or state inspection. Is this correct?

ANSWER

Cattle that are delivered for custom slaughter cannot be non-ambulatory disabled. Carcasses and/or parts delivered for custom processing should not come from non-ambulatory disabled cattle.