



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2008

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NMA STATEMENT TO SUPPORT USDA DECISION TO END THE USE OF NON-AMBULATORY CATTLE IN THE FOOD SUPPLY

Oakland, CA – The National Meat Association welcomes USDA’s timely response to the industry petition to exclude all non-ambulatory cattle from the food supply. In conjunction with the American Meat Institute and National Milk Producers Federation, NMA petitioned USDA to discontinue allowing cattle that become non-ambulatory following the initial ante-mortem inspection to be reinspected and enter the beef supply.

Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced today that “FSIS will draft a proposed rule to remove the exception that allows certain injured cattle to proceed to slaughter. This action is expected to provide additional efficiencies to food safety inspection by removing the step that requires inspection workforce to determine when non-ambulatory cattle are safe to slaughter.”

“We are pleased by USDA’s decision to ban all non-ambulatory cattle from entering into the U.S. food supply. This ban is important to strengthen consumer confidence in our beef products.” 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.