

03-080-1  
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Docket No 03-080-2  
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD  
AHIS Station 3C71 4700 River Road Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20730-1238

April 6, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding Docket No 03-080-2 we request that you do not even consider reopening the Canadian border so that beef may be imported because they are still feeding some of their cattle certain animal by-products that aren't allowed in the U.S. They need to meet the same regulations as we do if they are to bring their meat in. Importing Canadian beef would put the U.S. farmer/rancher at tremendous risk financially because our market depends upon the reputation of our meat. We have come back from what could have been a disaster so we don't need to chance it.

The United States should never consider importing meat from Canada until they have proven beyond a doubt their cattle are BSE free and until our exports are re-established. We need to work at it honestly and with integrity so our local consumer as well as our foreign countries can depend on our product. If we hold a hard line with Canada on this then the reputation of our product will be a credit to us.

When/if trade is allowed, there should be nine months to one year notice in the future to safeguard our own producers so as not to bankrupt them. There are over a million beef waiting to come across the border that would impact our market so enough notice would be pertinent. Canada is helping out their beef farmer so such a little degree many are not going to be able to make it financially. We can't afford to have that happen to our commodity.

Any imported meat from any foreign country should all carry the Country of Origin Label - Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and etc.

We, Wiley and Carolyn Smith, are a cow/calf rancher and are very much concerned about how our nation is handling this situation. We can't be the market for all the other countries products at the expense of our own. We need COOL and we need to protect our own commodity. We hope we can depend on you to listen to those who really know the business.

Sincerely,



Wiley and Carolyn Smith  
5872 Hwy 93  
Mackay, Idaho 83251

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