

**Statement of Senator Richard Durbin, D-Ill., regarding USDA downed cattle announcement on May 20, 2008:**

“Secretary Schafer's announcement that USDA will close the loophole in the downer rule is welcome news. The current regulation allowing downer cattle into the human food supply is confusing to consumers and our trading partners, expensive to administer, and unnecessarily risky from a public health standpoint.

The action taken this morning will make our food supply safer and improve the humane treatment of cattle by providing a clear standard that downer cattle will not be accepted in the food supply.

I support the Secretary's action and call on him to take appropriate steps to expedite the rulemaking process so this standard goes into effect as soon as possible.”