



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

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JULY 2000

**NOTICE TO TRADE
GROUND BEEF SUPPLIERS**

This notice to the trade is being issued to clarify the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) requirement contained within Technical Data Supplement 136 (TDS-136), dated June 2000, concerning non-ambulatory cattle (cattle that are unable to walk under their own power), commonly known as "downers." Carcasses originating from cattle which must be processed in accordance with FSIS Directive 6900.1R1 - Humane Handling of Disabled Livestock, issued November 2, 1998, must be segregated and the product from these carcasses cannot be included in USDA purchased ground beef.

Offers for Announcement LS-73, Invitation 002, have been delayed until **Monday, July 17, 2000**, at 1:30 p.m. Central Time. USDA has also issued Amendment 1 dated July 2000, to Announcement LS-73; Amendment 1 dated July 14, 2000, to TDS-136; and a new Annual Representations, Certifications, and Warranties (Appendix1), dated July 2000.

/s/ Barry L Carpenter

Barry L. Carpenter
Deputy Administrator
Livestock and Seed Program