



**Eruption of the third permanent incisor is the FSIS standard indicating that an animal is 30 months of age or older.** Relying on the eruption of the third permanent incisor as the standard to verify cattle are 30 months of age may cause some cattle 24 through 29 months of age to be identified as 30 month of age. This stringent standard is consistent with FSIS's abundance of caution policy regarding removal of specified risk material from use for human food. It provides greater assurance that inedible specified risk materials will be removed from animals 30 month of age or older than for example a standard based on the eruption of the forth or fifth incisor, which generally erupt after 30 or 36 months of age. A standard based on the eruption of the forth or fifth incisor would allow specified risk material materials to be saved for human food from the carcasses of animal over 30 months of age. Other criteria, such as the appearance of third pair of permanent molars at 24 to 30 months of age can aid in determining the age of cattle, see Table 1. An animal showing eruption of all molars and eruption of second pair of permanent incisors should be considered to be over 30 month of age. FSIS considers bovine with detention depicted in this diagrams to be less than or great than 30 month of age.