

What is BSE and why is it such a concern?

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a slow, progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of cattle. It typically occurs in cattle 5 years of age or older. BSE has been found in cattle native to the U.S. and Canada. Scientific evidence suggests BSE is associated with a rare human disease called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

Diagnosis of BSE is difficult because there are no live animal tests. PREVENTING transmission of the BSE agent is the ONLY safeguard available because there are no treatments and no vaccines available.

What causes BSE and how do cattle become infected?

The causative agent of BSE is believed to be an unconventional transmissible prion protein. These proteins accumulate in brain tissue, causing changes in behavior that progress to dementia and death.

It is widely believed cattle become infected by eating feed contaminated with BSE-infective material. The suspected source of infectivity is rendered proteins derived from ruminants.

What is the U.S. doing to prevent BSE transmission in cattle?

The USDA regulates the importation of animals from countries with BSE, and actively tests cattle for the disease.

Prohibited materials are protein-based materials, including meat and bone meal, derived from ruminants.

Ruminant animals are any animals with a four-chambered stomach including, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, elk, and deer.

Although other regulations are in place to help protect humans and cattle from BSE, feed distributors must do their part to prevent the spread of this disease.

Consequences of commingling or cross contamination of feed:

- Possibility of spreading BSE-infected material among cattle
- Potential negative effects on our economy
- Potential responses to a violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act include, but are not limited to, written notification of violation, seizure, injunctions, and other civil or criminal penalties



For more information:

USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov>

OIE World Organization for Animal Health

http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/en_oie.htm

Additional Information:

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Plant Industry - Agriculture Inputs

19 Martin Luther King Jr Dr

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Telephone: 404-656-4958



YOUR Role in Preventing BSE

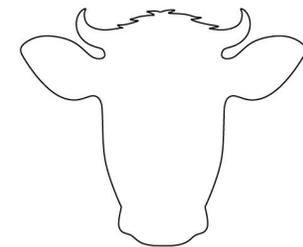


Retail/Distributors



BSE Prevention

Includes YOU



Georgia Department of Agriculture

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BSE: Your Actions Matter

Do the FDA's feed regulations apply to you?

If you handle feed or feed ingredients, YES!



the feed store

What do I need to do to comply with the FDA's feed regulations?

- Do NOT contaminate ruminant feeds or ingredients with prohibited materials
- If you handle prohibited and non-prohibited materials, prevent cross-contamination and commingling through separation
- Follow the [Small Entities Compliance Guide for Protein Blenders, Feed Manufacturers, and Distributors](#)

The purpose of the 21 CFR 589.[2000/2001](#) BSE Rule is to prohibit the use of certain cattle origin materials in the feed of all ruminant animals to further reduce the risk of the spread of BSE within the US.

Be Aware

You may be handling feed ingredients that cannot be fed to cattle or other ruminants

Know what materials are [prohibited](#)

Retail pet foods may contain prohibited materials but do not require the caution statement

DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE OR OTHER RUMINANTS



Receiving Bulk Ingredients

Identification of the prior load of material hauled in the transport is recommended.

Drivers can complete a form verifying that no prohibited materials were hauled in their trailer prior to the current shipment. The form can be attached to the shipping documents and kept as part of the records to document compliance.

After the trailer has been verified to be free of any residues unloading of the trailer can begin.

Maintaining Records

Maintain records sufficient to track the materials throughout their receipt, processing and distribution, and make the records available for inspection and copying. The records should contain the following information:

- Date of the receipt or purchase and sale or delivery
- Name and address of the seller
- Name and address of the consignee
- Identification of the product (ex. Lot number)
- Quantity



Handling & Storing

To prevent mix-ups follow these steps:

- Do not commingle feeds with feeds of a different type, fertilizer bags, pesticide bags, pet food, etc.
- Feeds should be stored off the floor with like feeds
- Labels should be clearly visible to the consumer
- In the event a bag of feed breaks, the exposed feed should be properly disposed of