



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

World Organization for Animal Health Supports Canadian Beef Trade Makes Changes to BSE Guidelines That Support the Safe Trade of Beef Products

(May 27, 2005) The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted a number of changes to its code on BSE that support reopening or maintaining trade in beef from countries such as Canada that have had cases of BSE but have taken all the necessary precautions to ensure a safe food product.

The OIE has stated that boneless beef from cattle under 30 months and some other products can be freely traded without risk to consumers regardless of a country's BSE status provided animals are inspected before and after slaughter, specified risk materials are removed, and approved slaughter methods are used. Canada meets or exceeds all of these conditions.

"The OIE decision sends a strong message of support for our position that there is no reason for any country to remain closed to boneless Canadian beef from under 30 month animals, and that any country currently open to that product should remain open," says Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) President Stan Eby.

The OIE will continue to consider the unrestricted trade in beef from cattle over 30 months of age. The OIE also reduced its country classifications of BSE risk to three – negligible risk, controlled risk and undetermined risk. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns issued a statement applauding the leadership of the OIE in modernizing the international approach to the safe trade of beef products by updating the BSE guidelines to reflect current science.

"These developments confirm the soundness of the United States Department of Agriculture's minimal risk rule that would reopen the U.S. border to trade in under 30 month live cattle and beef from Canada" continued Eby. "It's been estimated that in excess of 5,000 Americans working in the packing sector have had their jobs affected by the continued closure of the U.S. border to Canadian live cattle. It's past time to respond sensibly and get back to normalized trade in beef and live cattle. The OIE has further confirmed the rationality of doing so."

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CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 90,000 Cattle Producers