



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

Canadian Cattlemen's Association Statement on USDA Announcement

(June 10, 2005) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that a bovine brain sample that had previously tested inconclusive using two rapid tests for BSE, then tested negative on an IHC (immunohistochemistry) test at the USDA laboratory in Ames Iowa, was recently tested again using the Western Blot test with a presumptive positive result. The sample is now being flown to the BSE World Reference Laboratory in Weybridge, England for further testing. For further technical details visit the USDA website www.usda.gov.

In a news conference the USDA stated the animal was an aged beef cow and there was no indication it had been imported.

Both Canadian and U.S. authorities have stated it would not be unexpected to find a few additional cases of BSE on either side of the border. Regulations related to food safety, animal feed and international trade in both countries have been designed with this possibility in mind. There is no reason for Canada or any other country that imports cattle or beef from the United States to impose any new trade restricting measures should this animal be confirmed as BSE positive. By the same token, there is no reason for the United States or other countries to maintain any remaining restrictions on Canadian beef or cattle exports.

Further information on the timing of the final test result will be known next week.

For further information:

Cindy McCreath CCA Communications Manager 403-275-8558 ext. 406

www.cattle.ca

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