



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

Canadian Cattlemen's Association Statement on Announcement of New Case of BSE

(January 2, 2005, Calgary AB) The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) stated today that confirmation of another case of BSE in Canada is not an unexpected event. Risk assessments in Canada and the U.S. had concluded it was not unlikely a few additional cases would be found on either side of the border. Animal Health experts believe the level of BSE in North America is very low and declining as a result of appropriate mitigation measures, including the ruminant to ruminant feed ban introduced in 1997. All the necessary precautions are in place to ensure food safety, especially the precautionary measure of removing all parts of an animal at slaughter that have the potential to carry infectivity in the remote case that an animal is positive for BSE. In the case confirmed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency today, no parts of the animal entered the food or animal feed systems.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) stated last week that if this case was confirmed, it would not alter the USDA's plan to reopen the U.S. border to live Canadian feeder and slaughter cattle under 30 months and an expanded list of beef products as of March 7. The rule under which the border is to be re-opened is based on the USDA's assessment of Canada as a minimal risk region for BSE. That assessment is based on Canada's robust surveillance system, ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban and other appropriate risk assessment and mitigation measures. The USDA rule takes into account that a few additional cases of BSE are not unexpected.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association thanks Canadians for their continuing support.

For further information:

Cindy McCreath, Canadian Cattlemen's Association 403-275-8558 ext. 406

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