AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE

FACT SHEET

# Timeline of European and U.S. BSE Developments

| Date | Europe | United States |
|---|---|---|
| **1986** | BSE is first diagnosed in United Kingdom. No control measures are in place to prevent the spread of BSE. | |
| **1987** | | U.S. sends team to United Kingdom to study disease and develop preventive measures to use in U.S. |
| **1988** | Ruminant meat-and-bone meal (MBM) is determined to be a vector for BSE and is banned from cattle feed in the U.K. | USDA bans importation of ruminant animals from countries with BSE |
| **1989** | British ban use of high-risk products such as the brain and spinal cord for human consumption more than three years after the first case of BSE is diagnosed. | USDA extends import ban to include meat and bone meal. |
| **1992** | 36,682 cases of BSE are diagnosed in British cattle, the highest number ever in one year. Experts say more than a million likely had BSE but were destroyed without testing. | |
| **1993** | BSE epidemic in U.K. peaks with 1,000 new cases reported per week. | USDA expands its BSE surveillance efforts to include examination of brain tissue from non-ambulatory or "downer" cows. |
| **1996** | British government announces possible link between BSE and 10 cases of a new human TSE called new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD). | National livestock organizations and professional animal health organizations in the U.S. announce a voluntary program to discontinue the use of ruminant-derived protein in ruminant feed. |
| **1997** | | FDA bans on the use of ruminant products in livestock feed more than six years before the first case of BSE is diagnosed in the U.S.<br><br>USDA/APHIS bans imports of all live ruminants and high risk ruminant products from Europe, including countries that had no BSE cases. |
| **2000** | vCJD hits peak (28 cases worldwide diagnosed that year) and begins to decline | USDA increases BSE surveillance to nearly 20,000 tests in a single year, far exceeding OIE guidelines and more extensive than any other BSE-free nation. |

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| **December 2003** | | USDA announces first case of BSE in a U.S. cow imported from Canada.<br><br>USDA announces host of additional measures, including ban on processing of non-ambulatory cattle and ban on human consumption of specified risk materials, such as brains and spinal cords. |
| **2004** | | USDA dramatically expands BSE surveillance program for 12-18 months to definitely determine the level of BSE in the U.S. herd. Only two additional cases will be found in older cattle born before the feed ban.<br><br>USDA announces first BSE case in a native-born animal born before feed controls were implemented in 1997. |
| **2005** | | |
| **2006** | Worldwide BSE cases drop to 260, approximately half of one year prior. Most cases occur in Europe.<br><br>Worldwide vCJD cases drop to five. Most cases occur in Europe. No cases are attributed to U.S. beef products. | |
| **March 2006** | | USDA announces second BSE case in a native born animal before feed controls were implemented. This brings total U.S. BSE cases to three. |
| **March 2007** | | USDA approaches nearly one million total tests for BSE in its herd with only three cases found in animals born before the feed ban. U.S. documents lowest level of BSE per 100,000 head of any nation worldwide that has found BSE within its borders.<br><br>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Scientific Commission recognizes the United States' proactive BSE prevention and control efforts and recommends a controlled risk classification for the United States. |
| **2009** | | FDA implements additional safeguards by prohibiting certain materials to be used in animal feed. |
| **2010** | | Taiwan approves first shipment of bone-in beef since 2005 BSE ban. Australia lifts nine-year BSE ban and begins importing whole muscle beef and whole muscle beef products. |

**2012**

On March 9, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a proposed rule to amend Federal import regulations for live bovines and bovine products with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The proposed rule would bring our BSE import regulations in line with international animal health standards that call for countries to base their trade policies on the actual risk of animals or products harboring the disease. It is based on internationally accepted scientific literature that is consistent with World Organization for Animal health (OIE) guidelines.