WHAT IS BSE AND WHY IS IT SUCH A CONCERN?

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as “mad cow disease,” 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 USA and Canada.

Scientific evidence suggests BSE is associated with a rare human disease called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). Diagnosis of BSE is difficult because there are no live animal tests.

PREVENTING TRANSMISSION IN CATTLE?

What is the USA doing to prevent BSE?

Promote animal health procedures and protocols that are recommended by the USDA and the FDA, as well as state and local animal health agencies.

Although federal, state, and local agencies are responsible for protecting human health and animal health, feed manufacturers and distributors play a crucial role in preventing BSE from spreading in the feed manufacturing process. These programs are administered by the USDA and the FDA.

Additional Resources:

USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
http://www.aphis.usda.gov

Food and Drug Administration
http://www.fda.gov/cvm

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
http://www.agr.ne.gov

University of Nebraska Veterinary Extension
http://vetext.unl.edu

FDA Regulations for Protein Blenders, Feed Manufacturers, and Distributors

For more information:
Contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to find out more about feed manufacturing regulations. 402.471.2394

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 (FFDCA) include, but are not limited to, written notification of violation (such as untitled or warning letters), seizure, injunctions, and other civil or criminal penalties.

WHAT IS BSE AND WHY DO CATTLE GET IT?

It is widely believed cattle become infected by eating feed containing brain and spinal cord tissue from BSE-infected cattle. The suspected source of infectivity is feed material derived from ruminants that are not included in the four-chambered stomach animals, such as, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, elk, and deer.

Prohibited materials include:
- Animal feed and bone meal derived from ruminants
- Meat and bone meal derived from ruminants
- Feed containing prohibited materials

The USDA regulates the importation of animals from countries that are BSE-free or have restrictions in place to prevent the spread of BSE-infected cattle.

Your manufacturers feed

Feed manufacturers must do their part to help protect human health and animal health. Although other regulations are in place to help protect humans and cattle from BSE, feed manufacturers must do their part to prevent the spread of this disease.
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** or **CLEANOUT**, and proper **LABELING**.
- You **MUST** provide written procedures of separation or cleanout methods and documentation of cleanout if you handle prohibited and non-prohibited materials.

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1. **BE AWARE**
   - You may be handling feed ingredients that cannot be fed to cattle or other ruminants
   - **YOU** need to know what is prohibited
   - Retail pet foods may contain prohibited materials but do not require the caution statement

2. **LABELING**
   - **Follow labeling regulations**
     - If you handle prohibited materials...
       - **YOU** must label outgoing feeds containing prohibited material with the caution statement: “**DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE OR OTHER RUMINANTS**”
       - The statement must be prominent, conspicuous and easily read

3. **MIXING AND HANDLING**
   - **Prevent cross contamination**
     - You must use one or more of the following:
       - **SEPARATION**
         - Using different equipment to handle prohibited and non-prohibited materials
       - **CLEANOUT**
         - **Physical cleaning** - sweeping, vacuuming and/or washing
         - **Flushing and/or sequencing** - cleaning equipment by running an adequate volume of non-prohibited feed product through the equipment. The flush product is then considered prohibited

4. **KEEP RECORDS**
   - Document what was done with products containing prohibited materials, including retail pet foods, throughout their receipt, processing, and distribution
   - **Separation or cleanout records should include**...
     - How the equipment was cleaned
     - Who is responsible
     - How cleanout is monitored and verified
     - How volume of flush material was determined and handled
   - **Keep records for at least ONE year**