WHAT IS BSE AND WHY IS IT SUCH A DEBATE?

Transmission of the BSE agent of BSE is believed to be an unconventional route. Although other regulations are in place to help protect humans and cattle from the causative agent of BSE, feed manufacturers must do their part in preventing the spread of this disease.

WHAT IS THE USA DOING TO PREVENT BSE TRANSMISSION IN CATTLE?

The USDA regulates the importation of animals from countries with BSE, and actively tests cattle for the disease. FDA’s “Mammalian Protein Ban” in place since 1997 prevents livestock producers from feeding prohibited materials to ruminants. Prohibited materials are protein-based materials, including meat and bone meal derived from ruminants.

WHAT CAUSED BSE AND HOW DO CATTLE BECOME INFECTED?

The causative agent of BSE is believed to be an unconventional transmissible prion protein. These proteins accumulate in brain tissue, causing changes in behavior that progress to dementia and death.

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 Distributions

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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

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

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"

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**