WHAT IS BSE AND WHY IS IT SUCH A BIG DEAL?

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.

WHAT CAUSES 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.

It is widely believed cattle become infected by eating feed contaminated with BSE-infected material. The suspected source of infectivity is brain tissue. The suspected source of contamination is brain-tissue contaminated with BSE-infected material. The suspected source of contamination is brain tissue contaminated with BSE-infected material.

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. The USDA regulates the importation of animals from countries with BSE, and actively tests cattle for the disease.

WHAT IS BSE PREVENTION INCLUDES YOU!

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

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

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

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

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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.

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

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

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

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
http://www.agr.ne.gov
What do I need to do to comply with the FDA’s feed transportation regulations?

- **DO NOT** contaminate ruminant feeds or ingredients with prohibited materials.
- **You MUST** provide written procedures of cleanout methods and documentation of cleanout if you haul prohibited and non-prohibited materials.

1. **BE AWARE**

   - You may be hauling feed ingredients that cannot be fed to cattle or other ruminants.
   
   **KNOW YOUR LOAD**
   - Products containing prohibited material must be labeled with the caution statement "Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants."
   - Retail pet foods may contain prohibited materials but do not require the caution statement.
   - **DO NOT** rely solely on the caution statement.
   - **YOU** need to know what is prohibited.
   - **YOU** need to know your load - so ask!

2. **TAKE ACTION**

   - Determine the best method to prevent commingling and cross contamination.
   - **SEPARATION**
     - Use different trailers to haul prohibited and non-prohibited material.
   - **CLEANOUT** - using one or more of the following:
     - **Physical cleaning** - sweeping, vacuuming and/or washing.
     - **Flushing** - cleaning trailers and augers by running a non-prohibited feed product through the equipment, the flush product is then considered prohibited.

3. **KEEP RECORDS**

   - Document what was done with products containing prohibited materials from the time of receipt until the end of delivery.
   - Separation or cleanout records should include:
     - How the trailer and equipment were 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.