



## Disposal of cattle deadstock

CATTLE  
OWNERS AND CARETAKERS

# YOUR role in preventing BSE



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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture about the Feed Ban Enhancement. 402.471.2394

### 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 of the BSE agent is the **ONLY** safeguard available because there are no treatments and no vaccines available.

### 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.

### 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>



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It is widely believed cattle become infected by eating feed contaminated with BSE-infective material. The suspected source of infectivity is rendered proteins derived from ruminants.

### 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. The FDA Feed Ban Enhancement prohibits the use of certain cattle material in **all animal feed**.

**Cattle material prohibited in animal feeds (CMPAF)** include but are not limited to the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age or older.

**Prohibited materials for ruminants** are protein-based materials, including meat and bone meal, derived from ruminants.

**Ruminant animals** are any animals with a four-chambered stomach including, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, elk, and deer.



# BSE: Your Actions Matter

Does the FDA's Feed Ban Enhancement affect you?  
If you own or work with cattle, YES!

How do FDA feed regulations affect carcass disposal?

- The FDA Feed Ban Enhancement prevents the inclusion of brain and spinal cord from cattle 30 months of age or older from rendered products intended for animal feed
- As renderers work to comply with the new regulation, the changes they implement will affect how livestock producers, veterinarians, and others dispose of dead cattle



## 1. BE AWARE

- The FDA Feed Ban Enhancement defines cattle material prohibited in animal feeds (CMPAF) to include the brains and spinal cords from cattle 30 months of age or older
- This regulation may increase the cost or limit the availability of dead stock removal for livestock producers

## 3. KNOW THE LAW

- In Nebraska YOU CANNOT move or transport a carcass, unless it is being transported:
  - to an owner's adjacent property, or
  - by a licensed renderer, or
  - to a veterinarian for diagnostic work

Therefore:

- YOU CANNOT transport cattle carcasses to county or municipal solid waste landfills
- County or local laws may be stricter than state law, check with local law enforcement officials



Cattle may become infected by eating BSE-contaminated feed

## 2. KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

- Ask your renderer about their dead stock removal policies
- Document the age of all cattle
- Other legal methods of carcass disposal in Nebraska are:

1. Burying - A carcass must be buried...

- 4 feet below the ground within 36 hours after knowledge of death

2. Burning - Call the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, at 402-471-2189 before considering this option

3. Composting – According to rules and regulations

