

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/
French

**RISK ASSESSMENT ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM
ENCEPHALOPATHY IN CATTLE IN CANADA**

Statement by Canada at the Meeting
of 2-3 April 2003

1. In order to evaluate the risk for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has carried out a risk assessment of BSE in cattle in Canada, which is presented in the report "Risk Assessment on BSE in Cattle in Canada". This risk assessment was patterned on the approach in the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code and takes into consideration Canada's programmes of disease control, preventive measures, monitoring, surveillance, as well as diagnostic test results since the disease was first recorded in the United Kingdom in 1986.
 2. The Canadian report is presented in three companion sections: the first is an evaluation of risk factors for BSE in Canada; the second describes BSE surveillance in Canada; the final section is a quantitative analysis of the risk estimation for BSE in Canada.
 3. The risk assessment concluded that the likelihood of establishment of BSE in cattle in Canada prior to Canada's 1997 feed ban, based on the primary modes of transmission that were examined, is negligible. The introduction of additional preventative measures such as a feed ban (1977) and a revision of the BSE import policies (2000) have further diminished the level of risk of infectivity being introduced, propagated or amplified. Canadian policies will continue to evolve as new scientific information emerges and is validated and as international standards change.
 4. Canada's "Risk Assessment on BSE in Cattle in Canada" will soon be available in English, French and Spanish at: www.inspection.gc.ca.
-