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Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

**Assembly Agriculture Committee
MEMO**

TO: Members of the Assembly Agriculture Committee

FROM: Representative Al Ott, Chair

DATE: February 15, 2001

The following informative packet contains recent articles regarding Bio-Security as it was discussed in our last committee meeting.

The animal diseases included are:

- Foot and Mouth
- Mad Cow (BSE)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Bovine TB
- Johne's

If you would like additional information, please contact Beata in my office and she would be happy to assist you.

ENGLAND

25 new cases of foot-and-mouth

LONDON — While British government officials insisted the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was under control, 25 new cases were reported Sunday — the highest daily total so far.

The Agriculture Ministry confirmed a total of 164 cases in the United Kingdom since the disease was first identified in Britain on Feb. 20.

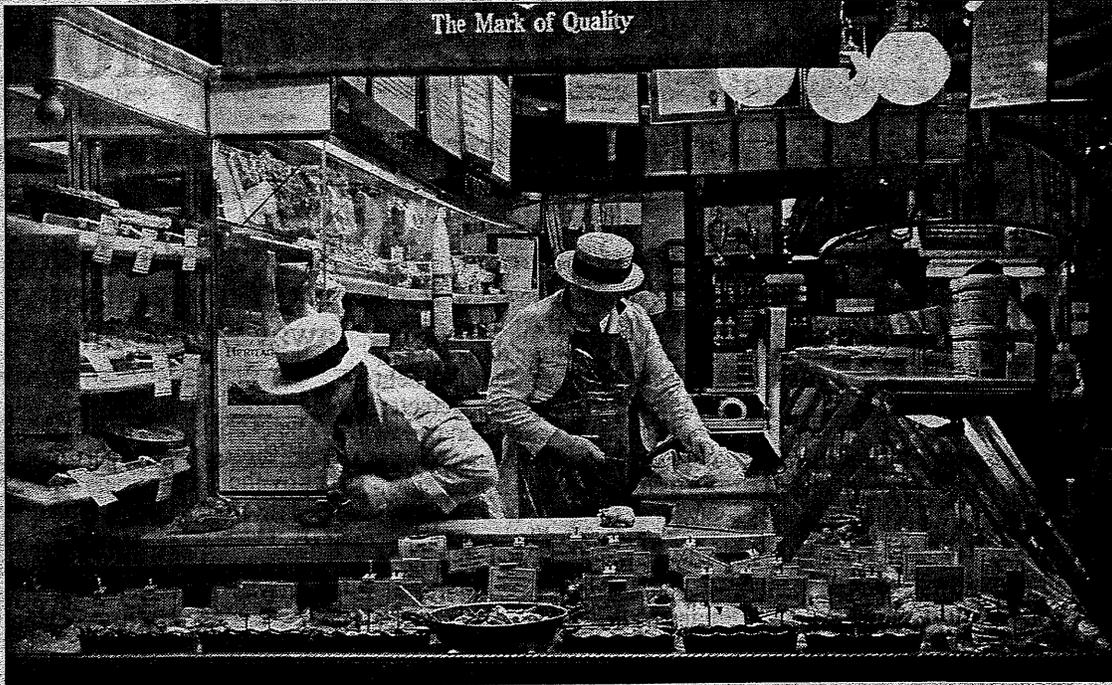
More than 114,000 animals have been destroyed, and another 30,000 are awaiting slaughter to keep the highly contagious disease from spreading further, the Agriculture Ministry said.

Livestock movement has been severely restricted. The European Union has closed all livestock markets and banned imports of meat, livestock and milk products from Britain in response to the disease.

fsm
3/12/01

3/20/01 Appleton Post
Current

WORLD NEWS



AP photo by Alastair Grant

BUTCHERS SERVE CUSTOMERS at one of London's leading organic butcher's shops Friday as fresh British meat becomes harder to come by. The scarcity of lamb, beef and pork is due to the ban on livestock movement to contain the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

Trade, not health, in jeopardy

LONDON (AP) — Foot-and-mouth disease is a relatively mild livestock ailment, and it is not a danger to humans, but once a farm animal has been exposed to infection it is killed to safeguard international trade.

Foot-and-mouth disease is probably the most infectious illness in the world and the most important economically, according to the Institute for Animal Health in Pirbright, England, the world reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease.

It can destroy livelihoods and food supplies almost overnight. Animals that recover produce less meat or milk; vaccination is ineffective, experts say.

However, the meat is safe to eat, unlike the case of mad cow disease, which has been linked to a brain-wasting disease in humans, variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease.

It's all about trade. A country

Britain feels bigger money pinch from livestock disease

that imports livestock touched by the disease risks infecting its own herds, thereby endangering its own export business.

Soon after the British outbreak was detected last week, the country banned livestock and meat exports, knowing that trade partners would bar their products anyway.

Any infected animals, or susceptible livestock on the same farm, are being killed and then burned or buried.

The virus can be spread by anything it touches, from sandwich meat to the soles of shoes and truck tires, experts said. Wind can carry it 40 miles.

So far, foot-and-mouth disease has been confirmed at 40

locations across Britain, and more than 2,000 animals have been destroyed, said the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The last major British epidemic, in 1967, infected nearly 2,000 farms and nearly 500,000 animals were destroyed.

The disease is widespread in many countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America. Poor nations that don't export meat let it just run its course.

But in developed countries, extermination is the norm, experts say.

"Like for any infectious disease, global travel creates a world community and the only way to stop it is to stop the animals moving and to stamp it out," said Chris Bostock, director of the Institute for Animal Health, which conducts global surveillance of the disease.

Sunday
3/4/2001

WORLD

52-6163

Wisconsin State Journal

Foot-and-mouth deaths exceed 45,000 animals

Virus fear spreads to France, Belgium

Ray Moseley
Chicago Tribune

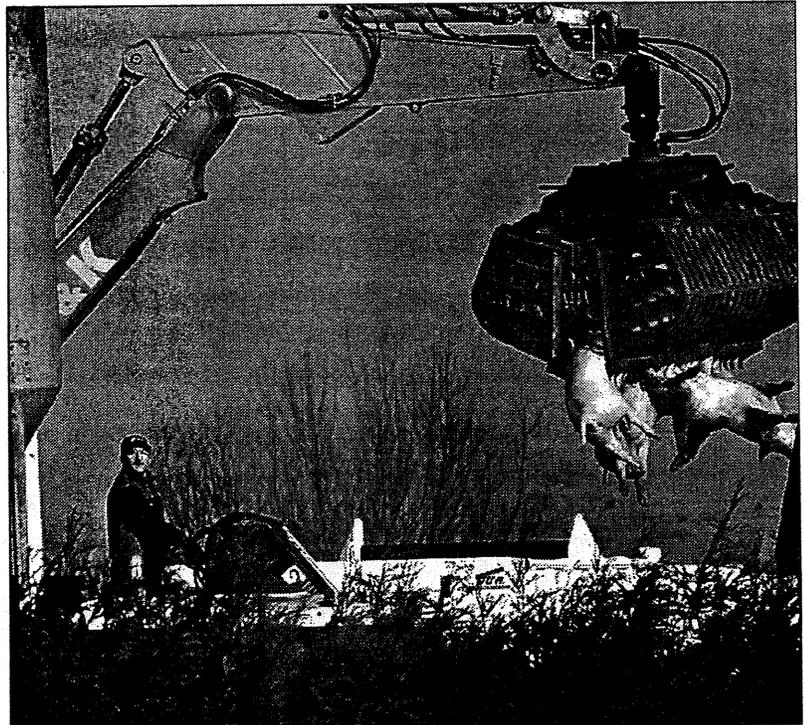
LONDON — Britain's foot-and-mouth disease outbreak may have spread Saturday to Belgium and France, raising the prospect that farming in much of continental Europe could now be endangered. The suspected outbreak in Belgium occurred on a farm at Dikwilde in Flanders, a few miles from the French border. The farmer, who had bought 75 pigs from Britain last month, detected blisters around the mouths of some pigs, a characteristic sign of the disease. His entire herd of 500 pigs was immediately slaughtered and the carcasses burned. A 12-mile buffer zone around the farm was established, and authorities were trying to trace where recent animal sales from it had gone.

An initial test for foot-and-mouth disease proved negative, but authorities said further tests were being carried out and they might not have a definitive result until Tuesday. The suspected case in France occurred on a sheep farm in the south-east of the country, and test results were also not immediately available.

The rapid spread of the disease across Britain in the past week suggests that, if the Belgian and French cases are confirmed, much wider areas of Europe would have cause for concern.

France, Germany and the Netherlands began several days ago to destroy all imported British meat products to try to minimize the risk to their farms.

Continental countries and the United States also have begun requiring visitors from Britain to have



Associated Press

A worker uses a crane to remove dead pigs Saturday from a farm in Beerst, Belgium. They were immediately destroyed after some pigs showed possible symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease. Test results will be released Monday.

their shoes disinfected, as the disease can be spread rapidly on shoes, clothing, car tires and through the air.

In the United Kingdom, 11 more cases of the disease were reported Saturday, bringing the total to 52, including one case in Northern Ireland. Agriculture Ministry forecasts early last week suggested there could be up to 100 cases in the first week, so the lower number has raised hopes the outbreak is being contained by a policy of widespread slaughter and burning of infected animals. More than 45,000 animals have been destroyed.

The government hopes to be able to draw firm conclusions by Saturday on whether the outbreak has been

contained, or whether the country faces an epidemic.

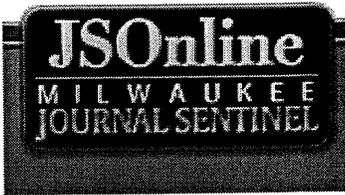
The British government reached an agreement with the European Union on Saturday to quickly compensate affected farmers with \$229 million in the next few months.

British farmers also have been receiving additional government subsidies to compensate them for the fact that Britain's overvalued currency has made it more difficult to export.

The most severe economic burden may fall on trucking firms, slaughterhouse employees, rural shops and butchers. Some slaughterhouse workers already have been laid off, and officials estimated 10,000 people in the food industry could be out of work in the coming week.

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State works to nip spread of foot-and-mouth disease

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By MEG JONES of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: March 1, 2001

Fears that an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, like the one sweeping through Britain, might spring up in Wisconsin prompted a warning from state officials Thursday.

State agriculture officials are asking anyone who has been in the United Kingdom in the last 30 days to steer clear of farms and zoos in Wisconsin.

Who Should Call

Anyone who recently returned from Britain and has had contact with zoo or farm animals should call the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection - (608) 224-4872 - during business hours.

"It would be nice if we knew or heard from people if they were in England in the last two to three weeks, and kind of let us know where they were and if they were exposed to livestock," said state veterinarian Clarence Siroky.

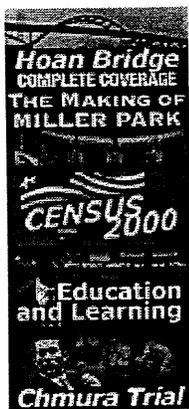
Callers can leave their name and phone numbers, and state officials will contact them, Siroky said.

"If it's here, I'd just as soon find it sooner rather than later," he said.

Since Wisconsin is an agriculture state that exports many animals and lots of

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Since Wisconsin is an agriculture state that exports many animals and lots of food, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease would be a disaster, Siroky said. Animals afflicted with the disease or exposed to it are slaughtered and their carcasses are burned.

"If it gets into any of our livestock it becomes a very expensive proposition," he said.

Aside from the financial loss of animals, Siroky explained, all other livestock couldn't be sold until testing is done by veterinarians.

"All of our animals couldn't be moved out of the state; we'd be quarantined," said Siroky. "Our food products would be quarantined. We export a lot of food. It would be devastating for our state."

The disease does not pose a health threat to humans, but people can carry the disease on their shoes, in discarded food or on clothing. The disease can also be blown up to 40 miles by wind. That means anyone who recently visited Britain could have picked up the ailment without getting near an infected animal, said Siroky.

At risk are cloven-hoofed or split-hoofed animals such as cattle, swine, sheep and deer. The disease is not usually fatal in itself but causes blisters on the mouth and feet, fever and loss of appetite. There hasn't been a case of foot-and-mouth disease in America since 1929.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair this week called the outbreak "a dreadful blow" to a farming industry already struggling with mad cow disease, a fatal brain-wasting illness first identified in Britain.

Even if the foot-and-mouth outbreak is quickly contained, British officials warned, an export ban - imposed two days after the first case was discovered at a slaughterhouse on Feb. 19 - could remain for up to six months after eradication.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on March 2, 2001.

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SEARCH



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Kalies, Beata

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2001 6:04 PM
To: Ott, Alvin
Subject: FW: READ ME: Did fanatics start Foot & Mouth disease crisis?

Al,
Take a look at this.
Steve

*Save file
APM*

-----Original Message-----
From: Cyberian [mailto:cyberian@cwo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2001 6:22 PM
Subject: READ ME: Did fanatics start Foot & Mouth disease crisis?

The Mirror
March 2, 2001, Friday

DID ANIMAL FANATICS START FOOT & MOUTH?;
MINISTRY PROBE 007-STYLE TERROR PLOT AS CRISIS GROWS

Paul Gilfeather Whitehall Editor

ANIMAL rights terrorists could be behind the foot and mouth crisis,
Ministers fear.

As six more cases were confirmed yesterday, taking the total to 32,
Ministry of Agriculture investigators were probing the idea that activists
planted the disease in an attempt to discredit farming practices.

They believe terrorists could have copied the twisted scheme from the James
Bond thriller *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, in which evil Blofeld
threatens to contaminate the world with the foot and mouth virus.

A Ministry source admitted last night: "It is too early to rule out the
possibility that terrorists are behind this.

"Many people in the department think it is no coincidence that farming has
suffered swine fever and foot and mouth outbreaks within nine months after
years and years of healthy herds.

"The US spends millions to counter bio-terrorism.

"I know it's hard to believe but it has been pointed out to us that Blofeld
threatened the world with foot and mouth." Terrorists believe such moves can
undermine confidence in governments and place a question mark over safety of
the food supply.

The slaughter of thousands of animals could be a price they are willing to
pay to bring the farming industry to its knees.

Experts say it is perfect for inexperienced gangs - they do not need
scientific knowledge, farms are easy to get at and the fallout is
potentially massive.

The Ministry has a squad of 12 undercover ex-policemen who tackle such
cases. They usually deal with farmers who repeatedly flout health laws.

A Ministry spokesman said only: "Nothing is being ruled in and nothing is
being ruled out."

Yesterday the crisis continued to worsen with the first outbreaks in
Scotland, elections facing cancellation and meat running out in some shops.
New cases of the disease were confirmed at two farms in Dumfries, Longtown

and Penrith in Cumbria, Whorlton in Tyne and Wear, and Armagh.

Ministers are bracing themselves for more than 40 new cases before the crisis subsides.

Chief vet Jim Scudamore admitted it was expected to surface at "five or six" sites a day over the next week.

But he hoped for none after March 9 - two weeks after livestock movements were banned. The incubation period is 14 days.

He said: "The spread has already taken place. What we are now doing is mopping it up."

Another 25,000 sheep, pigs and cattle will be slaughtered in the coming days. More than 25,000 have already been killed.

But hopes of containing the disease were hit as it emerged that supplies of the disinfectant to prevent its spread are running out. The Country Land and Business Association said some areas had almost none left.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown said the EU export ban would probably continue long after it expires on March 16.

He said: "Until we can convince veterinary officials that we are disease free then we will not be able to export," he said.

Plans to get livestock moving again from disease free areas to abattoirs went ahead despite the ban on movements. Junior Agriculture Minister Baroness Hayman said licences could be issued as early as Monday.

Snowdon joined country areas declared a no go zone - anyone caught there faces a pounds 5,000 fine.

Voice of The Mirror - Page 6

SUPERMARKETS

STORES last night warned of meat shortages and rising prices.

Asda ran out of pork and lamb at a store in Wakefield, West Yorks.

Shoppers had to buy chicken and beef as the chain sought to import supplies.

Other store giants and butchers groups said importing would raise prices.

Waitrose said: "Our meat costs have increased and this will need to be reflected in retail prices over the next few weeks."

This would only be passed on to customers where absolutely necessary.

CENSUS

GOVERNMENT statisticians are preparing contingency plans in case the outbreak forces them to cancel next month's census.

The pounds 255million survey, due to take place on April 29, will see 63,000 officials delivering forms to every home in the UK and there are fears staff could spread the disease.

"The outbreak cannot be ignored," said the Office for National Statistics.

"Census activity will take place only where it is in accordance with whatever else is happening in the affected areas."

Distribution of the census forms is due to begin on April 9. But this will be delayed if the infection is not contained by March 19 and the subsequent 21-day quarantine period completed.

The ONS said it was assessing the situation on a daily basis.

ELECTION

FEARS are growing that the General Election on the PM's preferred date of May 3 may also be hit.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown sparked concern by ordering MPs not to canvass in rural areas.

"Clearly the implications of all that are not lost on anyone," he said, while pointing out that Mr Blair would make any final decision on election timing.

Mr Blair must give 17 days' notice of an election. But a ban on visiting rural areas must remain in place for at least 21 days to stop the disease spreading.

A Downing Street spokesman insisted the PM had not yet ruled out a spring poll and said there were no contingency plans to move local elections.

He said ministers would wait to see what effect the controls had on containing the disease.

CRUFTS

THE Kennel Club has called off Crufts until later in the year.

It said the decision was reached due to the "escalating situation" and after consulting the relevant authorities.

MAFF said the event, due to be held in Birmingham from March 8 to 11, posed no more threat than other gatherings. But show manager Vanessa McAlpine said: "A postponement is necessary and unavoidable."

Over 22,000 dogs were due to take part and tens of thousands of tickets had been sold.

2/27/01
WSJ



Associated Press

Zoos, nature reserves and parks such as this one in West London were closed Monday to keep animals susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease away from people. At least three schools in virus-hit areas closed and teachers who live on farms were told to stay home.

Britain struggles to cope with foot-and-mouth scare

More than 7,000 animals have been slaughtered in Britain.

By Laura King
Associated Press

LONDON — Racehorses stayed in their stables. Soldiers stood down from a military maneuver. Zoo goers who hoped to see an elephant or a giraffe went away disappointed.

The ripple effects of Britain's week-old outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease spread far beyond the farm Monday, as all sorts of everyday activities were curtailed in the struggle to stem the virulent livestock ailment.

More new cases cropped up, bringing to 12 the number of farms or slaughterhouses where the highly contagious infection has been found. More than 7,000 animals — mainly pigs, cows

and sheep — have been slaughtered in Britain, and another 3,500 killed in continental Europe, where no cases have been found but authorities fear the disease could spread.

"This is a nightmare for the whole farming community," said farm leader Ben Gill, who met Monday with Prime Minister Tony Blair. "People are scared out of their wits."

Blair told the British Broadcasting Corp. he would consider compensating farmers who lost livestock.

"It's a dreadful blow, coming on top of so many other problems within the farming industry," he said, referring to outbreaks of mad cow disease and swine fever. "We will do everything we possibly can to make sure not just that the disease is eliminated, but that we help farmers in their difficulties."

Because horses can carry the virus — although not catch it — races were halted

Monday at the Newcastle track, close to the scene of one outbreak, and a wider ban was being weighed by racing authorities. Organizers of show-jumping events were also considering cancellations.

Foot-and-mouth disease, which afflicts cloven-hoofed animals like sheep, cows and pigs, is extremely easy to spread. Although humans almost never catch the disease, they can carry it on boots and clothing. The virus can also be airborne, transmitted from one animal to another, or contracted through contaminated feed.

Out in the countryside, leaping flames lit the night sky over snowy fields as workers built giant bonfires of livestock carcasses. Wholesale slaughter is considered the only way to stop the epidemic, and so great is the fear of contagion that the animals' bodies are burned to ash and then buried in deep pits.



March 5, 2001

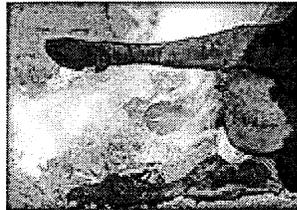
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Europeans are incinerating cattle possibly infected with mad cow disease. (ABCNEWS)

Could Mad Cow Reach America?

Some Scientists Worry the U.S. Is Not Taking Protective Measures

abcNEWS.com

March 3 — Across Europe, hundreds of thousands of cows and bulls suspected of having mad cow disease have been ground up and stored in huge mounds in airplane hangars — still infected and dangerous to humans. Others are being incinerated but the ashes themselves are contaminated.

Michael Hansen, of the consumer advocacy group the Consumers Union, says the infectious strain is "virtually indestructible ... it defies all of our thinking about what living things are and how they should act."

No cases of mad cow disease have been found yet in the United States, but some say America is not in the clear.

Possible Threat in United States

Professor Richard Lacey is one of the leading experts on mad cow disease and was one of the first to sound the alarm in Britain. He says America needs to be very much on the alert. "It is just possible that there is no mad cow disease in the U.S.A., but I believe it's more likely there is, but not detected yet," he says.



MAD COW MENACE ▶

Blood Donor Bans: Protecting the U.S. Blood Supply

Food, Vaccines and Supplements: How Vulnerable Is America?

Searching for Answers

Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University in England, was perhaps the most outspoken scientist to warn British authorities that humans could contract bovine spongiform encephalopathy by eating infected beef. The warning was largely ignored and dismissed as scientifically impossible until five years ago when people began to die.

Victims of the degenerative brain disease lose their motor skills and slowly waste away. There is no vaccine and no treatment, which is why Lacey is concerned that the United States isn't doing all it could to protect itself.



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CHAT: Mad U.S.? 1 p.m.

For hel



The U.S. banned British beef and cattle products in 1989 and the American beef industry has taken additional precautions. The head of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Chuck Shroeder, says that along with federal regulators, his group has actually gone through mock drills to prepare for the discovery of mad cow disease. Containment procedures have been planned and a full-scale public relations campaign is ready to go. "We're not just whistling on our way past the graveyard on this," he says.

Shroeder is confident that necessary measures have been taken and protections in place. "If the disease were ever discovered here, we could number one, identify it, number two contain it, and number three, eliminate it as quickly as possible." The government reports that its inspectors have yet to find a single cow with mad cow disease in the U.S.

Feeding Cattle to Cattle

How was mad cow disease able to spread from cow to cow in England and elsewhere in Europe?

A key reason, Lacey says, was the practice of including ground-up remnants of cattle in cattle feed. These practice was widespread in Europe and, to a lesser extent, the United States.

Lacey refers to this as a kind of forced animal cannibalism.

When mad cow disease broke out, the practice of feeding cattle back to cattle was stopped in England, but it continued in the United States until four years ago. And Hansen says other potentially dangerous feeding practices now banned in the U.K. continue in the United States today.

It remains legal in the United States, for example, to "grind up cattle, feed them to pigs, and then grind up the pigs and feed them to the cows," says Hansen. Lacey calls this a "real danger," that "must be stopped immediately."

But government and industry officials say there's no reason to follow Europe in banning the practice, because there's no evidence to date that the disease can spread between pigs and cattle.

Lacey says nevertheless the United States should adopt the same ban as a precaution: "My advice to the U.S. authorities is to simply ban the incorporation of animal remains in animal feed."

But Shroeder defends U.S. practices. "We have been driven here by the best science that we can access, we have protected the U.S. beef supply very, very carefully," he says.

Chronic Wasting Disease: a Different Strain?

There's another concern not so easily answered. There is growing concern about a possible American version of mad cow disease showing up in deer and elk in the West. It is called chronic wasting disease and some suspect it has already claimed human lives.

Hansen says this is chronic wasting disease is dangerously similar to mad cow disease. "It's a different strain of the disease and it appears to be spreading in the wild," he says.

Tracie McEwen believes her 30-year-old husband Doug, who ate elk all his life, may have been a victim. He died of a rare brain disorder normally only seen in people older than 55, with symptoms remarkably similar to those who died the slow, agonizing death of mad cow disease in England.

The death of Tracie McEwen's husband and that of two others under the age of 30 have raised questions for health officials concerned about the similarity to mad cow disease.

Lacey thinks the "link between eating deer and getting a type of mad cow disease is very plausible," and it's one more reason that American authorities shouldn't think they have all the answers about the disease. He says, "you have to act on the assumption that the disease may well be there, because if you wait until you know it's there, then it's too late."

Meanwhile, some members of Congress have asked for an investigation into whether the government should be taking additional steps to protect against the spread of mad cow disease should it arrive in this country.

 **Community**

**CHAT: Mad cow, threat to the U.S.? 1 p.m.
ET**



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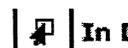
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The U.S. Department of Agriculture has inspected 12,000 American cows suspected of having mad cow disease in the past decade and, to date, has found none infected. (ArtToday)

Are Americans Safe from Mad Cow?

Experts Say Risk Is Low, But It Is Not Zero

By Robin Eisner



NEW YORK, Jan. 19 — How do you know if the steak you are eating is free of mad cow disease?

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

[Food and Drug Administration Hearing](#) [Vaccine Concerns](#) [Nutritional Supplement Contamination?](#) [Holes in Our Blood Supply?](#)

Did you ever wonder about the safety of those "glandular" supplements from bovine sources you're buying off the Web to "beef up" your internal organs?

Are you sure that hepatitis vaccine you took recently does not contain any mad cow proteins?

What about the blood transfusion you recently had, which may have blood mixed in from Europeans?

So far, none of these products or medicines has been contaminated with mad cow disease in the United States. But government officials and public health experts believe all these areas bear close watching, as they are potential entry points for mad cow disease, if current rules and regulations aren't constantly updated and monitored.

As every day brings more news from Europe about mad cow disease — with Italy reporting its first confirmed case of an infected cow this week from a slaughterhouse that supplies McDonalds, Spain reporting two new cases in cattle this week, and parts of England delaying tonsillectomies to wait for new surgical instruments to prevent human transmission of the disease — Americans are wondering more and more: Are we next?



MAD COW MENACE ▶
TUESDAY:
[Blood Donor Bans: Protecting The U.S. Blood Supply](#)
TODAY:
[Food, Vaccines and Supplements: How Vulnerable Is America?](#)
MONDAY:

Searching For Answers

Federal officials assure us the chance of getting mad cow disease in this country is extremely low, even with some recently exposed potential problems in U.S. livestock feed and human vaccines. But the risk is not zero, as scientists continue to grapple with the food supply, the blood supply, nutritional supplements, among other possible sources.

"I assure my nieces and nephews that it's perfectly safe to eat hamburgers and meat," says Linda Detwiler, senior staff veterinarian with the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "But there is always more we can be doing."

Food and Drug Administration Hearing

The Food and Drug Administration is holding a public hearing today to discuss whether it should further limit who can donate blood or organs in this country, based upon donors' potential exposure to transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

TSEs encompass the family of diseases that infect cows, humans, sheep, deer, elk, mice and monkeys, all creating similar neurological devastation as mad cow. The agency also will briefly consider the nutritional supplement issue at its meeting.

Mad cow disease is thought to be caused by prions, which are as-yet poorly understood infectious agents that eat away brain tissue, giving it a spongy appearance. The human version responsible for more than 80 deaths in Britain is called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Scientists believe victims contracted it by eating infected beef. The disease presumably spread throughout Europe by cows fed bone meal and beef by-products contaminated by the disease.

To prevent the disease from crossing the Atlantic Ocean, since 1997 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has banned live ruminants — cows, sheep, and goats — or their by-products, including meat, from entering this country if they come from Europe. Glandular material, blood and serum are within the USDA's ban, but some products may have entered the country before restrictions were put into effect, or have very restricted exemptions.

Exceptions to the ban exist. Milk and milk products, hides and skins, protein free tallow (or meat fat), and gelatin for high-grade pharmaceuticals are allowed in, according to USDA's Detwiler. But bovine spongiform encephalopathy risk from these sources is deemed very low. Nervous tissue from the brain or spinal cord is considered the most likely prion carrier.

Vaccine Concerns

For a few years, the FDA has recommended that manufacturers of pharmaceutical products not use bovine material from Europe, but a recent problem with vaccine reveals some companies were not heeding that warning.

Last month, the FDA reported that several firms might have used bovine material from Europe or from an unknown geographical origin in making vaccines. North American Vaccine's diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine and SmithKline Beecham's hepatitis A vaccine were among those that used European bovine raw materials. Vaccine manufacturers use beef protein broths and calf serum to make vaccines.

Officials say the public was at minimal risk for contracting any disease from these vaccines and has asked the firms by the end of 2001 to be more rigorous in the manufacturing processes.

The FDA only can recommend that manufacturers adhere to their rules as Congress

limits the agency's powers.

Nutritional Supplement Contamination?

Besides vaccines, nutritional supplements that use glandular material — such as pituitaries, prostates, or kidneys from cows — may provide a way for mad cow to enter the country. The supplements contain hormones presumed to act on the organs or immune system in humans. People take them to feel more vigorous.

Although the FDA says European bovine products should not be imported into this country because of an import alert ban put into effect within the past two years, infected material might have come in before the ban was put into effect.

To prevent nutritional supplement makers from using materials from infected cows, the FDA in November wrote a letter to the industry to "take all steps to assure the public that such ingredients do not come from cattle born, raised or slaughtered in countries where BSE exists."

But some experts believe the FDA's weak oversight of the nutritional supplement industry may put the public at some risk. "There is no way of being certain that some dietary supplement ingredients do not come from British cows," says Dr. Peter Lurie, director of the Public Citizen Health Research Group and a member of the FDA advisory committee on mad cow disease. Lurie adds, though, that glandular supplements represent a very small percentage of the total market.

Yet Michael Hansen, a research associate at the Consumer Policy Institute, the research unit of Consumers Union, says Americans should avoid taking any glandular supplements, even if they are made from cows in this country, since it takes five years for mad cow disease to incubate.

The public should ask manufacturers of these products tough questions about where "glandular" material came from, says Hansen, even though nutritional supplement trade groups say they use accepted ingredients.

The agency may consider regulating these glandular products more rigorously, or removing them from the shelves altogether, says an adviser to the FDA committee meeting this week.

Holes in Our Blood Supply?

To prevent the spread of mad cow into our food supply, the FDA has prohibited American cattle from being raised on feed made from other cattle, although pigs and poultry can still eat protein extracted from cows. But problems have recently shown up in the system designed to prevent cows from eating cow-based foodstuffs.

To get a sense of how well renderers and feed mills were complying with the rules, the agency analyzed 9,947 inspections of the industry. Renderers extract protein from dead cows and provide the nutritional material to feed mills, which mix the protein with soybeans, minerals and nutrients.

Under FDA rules, renderers and feed mills have to label their products to ensure that cow proteins do not sneak into the cow food supply. These firms also have to make sure feed products that contains cow proteins for pigs and poultry are strictly separated from feed designated for cattle.

Unfortunately, in an analysis of the inspections, FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine found a significant number of problems in labeling and other policies designed to prevent mix-ups.

The agency plans on seizing products from those firms that fail to comply with the law, since contaminated cow proteins eaten by cattle is believed to be the way the disease

spread. "[Mad cow] could be here before the first signs of the disease show up," Dr. Stephen Sundlof, director of the FDA's veterinary medicine center. "Our intent is to make sure we stop it in its tracks."

USDA has inspected 12,000 cattle in this country out of a total of 100 million head of cattle in the past decade and to date has not found any with mad cow disease. Detwiler says her agency would like to do more inspections.

Should Blood and Organ Donation Bans Be Widened?

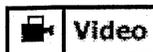
Two years ago, the FDA ordered a ban on British blood to protect against variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from spreading. Anyone who has lived in the United Kingdom or Ireland for more than six months between January 1980 and December 1996 is prohibited, for life, from donating blood.

To further protect the American blood supply, the agency is now considering extending that ban to anyone who has lived in Europe, because of the alarming spread of the disease on the continent. On Wednesday, the Red Cross announced it plans to ask the government to extend the ban to people who have spent time in Western Europe. The Red Cross is not sure how long people would have had to been in Europe, but says six months may be the logical cutoff.

The Red Cross may extend the ban independent of any FDA action. If the FDA rejects the request, "whether we will come up with additional safety nets or be more stringent, that is something we will be deciding very quickly after this meeting," says Red Cross director Bernadine Healy.

Also under consideration is whether there should be restrictions against residents of the United Kingdom from donating organs. The agency is also studying whether hunters of elk and deer in North America should be banned from donating blood. Chronic wasting disease, a form of TSE, has hit 15 percent of the free-ranging deer and elk in northeastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming, and hunters may have been exposed to the infectious agent.

The advisory committee voted Thursday to ban blood donations from anyone who lived in France, England and Portugal for 10 years or more from 1980 until the present. The FDA is not bound to follow the recommendations, but the agency generally heeds such advice.



CJD: Threatening Humans



The Mad Cow Crisis

Monitoring U.S. Beef

Beef consumers in developed countries have had to ask a question these days that never seemed imaginable before; Where did this meat come from, and what did the cow eat before I ate it?

Soon after England began reporting increased numbers of Mad Cow disease — more accurately called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — the U.S. beef industry began its own program of surveillance. According National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA), a program was set up in May 1990, which involved inspection by veterinarians and beef handlers in each state.

In 1989 the USDA banned the importation of products made from "ruminants" — cud-chewing animals like cows, sheep, goats and elk — from countries with confirmed cases of BSE.

Then within two weeks of the British government's statement in March 1996 that BSE might be spread in cattle feed which included meat and bone meal, the United States cattle industry implemented a "voluntary ban" on the use of these supplements in cattle feed.

In January 1997 the United States implemented a ban on all imports of ruminants from the entire European Union. In fact, the United States has not imported beef from the United Kingdom since before 1985, because of other disease risks, according to Julie Quick, NCBA spokeswoman.

Currently, the top sources of imported beef to the U.S. are: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and Argentina. None has so far reported any cases of mad cow disease.

In Europe, McDonald's and Burger King have distributed pamphlets at many outlets. They assured customers that their beef came from Australia and Italy, which at the time had no known cases of BSE (Italy has now confirmed its first case).

In the U.S., Burger King assured customers the beef used for their burgers was from United States and Australia, according to Kim Miller, spokeswoman for Burger King. "Our hamburger patties are 100 percent muscle meat and are audited by Burger King experts to ensure that all products meet our specifications as well as meet or exceed specifications as set by the federal government," Miller said. McDonald's could not be reached for comment.

— Rose Palazzolo, ABCNEWS.com



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COMMENTARY

By Janet Ginsburg

MAD COW: THE U.S. IS NOT IMMUNE



It's a biocontainment nightmare, an Eden gone toxic. Up in the wilds of Saskatchewan, land poisoned with infectious prions—malformed proteins like the ones that cause mad cow disease—have turned hundreds of acres into a death trap for deer and elk.

Although only 14 elk have been diagnosed with chronic wasting disease (CWD) in the past year, ranchers and wildlife biologists fear the worst: an epidemic of a contagious, invariably fatal disease for which there is no live animal test and no cure. No one even knows for sure how it spreads or if it can infect livestock outside the lab. But with a budding elk-ranching industry and thousands of wild animals at risk, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) snapped into action. Since November, 1,500 elk that may have had contact with the sick animals have been slaughtered and their brains saved for testing.

The fate of a few thousand Canadian elk won't keep many Americans

awake at night. But it was an animal imported from the U.S. that sparked the outbreak. Worse, CWD is now entrenched in herds running wild in Colorado and Wyoming. Meanwhile, scrapie, a sheep form of the disease, has been found all over the U.S.

TIME BOMBS. A European-style mad cow nightmare seems remote—anywhere outside Europe. But the U.S. is neither isolated nor immune from the prion plague. And though there has never been a diagnosed case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the U.S., efforts to keep the disease and a related human illness, new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD), at bay may not be enough. Consider the following:

- According to the World Health Organization, tainted protein feed made from carcasses of sick animals spread

TESTING A DEER
The prions that cause chronic wasting disease and mad cow can spread over vast areas

BSE in Europe. The feed was sold all over the world, even after Britain imposed a domestic ban on it in 1988. Also, potentially contaminated European meat products were imported to the U.S. well into the '90s.

- The Food & Drug Administration hasn't effectively enforced its '97 ban against giving feed made from rendered cows to cattle.

- Screening of blood donors at risk for nvCJD only covers people who lived in Britain during that country's peak mad cow years. But now the problem has spread to Europe. Also, there is no U.S. screening of organ donors, although infectious prions can lurk in various tissues.

- "Downer" cattle—cows that fall down and can't get back up—are considered a high-risk group for BSE. But they can be slaughtered at FDA-supervised rendering facilities, avoiding inspection and testing by

the U.S. Agriculture Dept.

Among all deadly pathogens, prions present a particularly hairy set of challenges to health authorities. Normal forms of prion proteins exist in almost every mammalian cell. But when healthy prions come in contact with their deformed cousins, they refold into poisonous proteins that eventually corrode the brain.

Prions are a hardy lot, able to withstand radiation, temperatures of 600F, and standard hospital disinfection. In Europe, policies that underestimated the threat have proven disastrous. "It reminds me of the early days of HIV, when the blood in-

dustry wouldn't do anything," says Michael Hansen, who analyzes U.S. prion disease policies for the Consumers Union. "If you want to forestall disaster, you have to take a precautionary approach," he says.

That's not always easy. The extent of environmental contamination from

“It reminds me of the early days of HIV.... To forestall disaster, you have to take a precautionary approach”

MICHAEL HANSEN

Consumers Union

CWD in Colorado and Wyoming spans 15,000 square miles. Any effort to destroy the 80,000 deer and elk in the region—only a small percentage of which have the disease—would be pointless, says University of Wyoming veterinarian Elizabeth S. Williams. While bad feed is blamed for spreading BSE, scientists believe prions from CWD and the sheep disease scrapie can be shed through mucus and feces, thus infecting the land.

TOSSING THE DART. Williams—who hunts and eats venison—doesn't see CWD as a direct danger to people. But others do. Hansen notes that human prions in a test tube are just as susceptible to CWD as to BSE. This means CWD could be just as bad as mad cow, especially if CWD “jumps species” and gets into commercial livestock. While early tests indicate that's unlikely, it will be years before anyone is sure.

Dangerous agricultural practices in the U.K. produced a tragedy. First, carcasses of sick cows jam-packed with infectious prions were recycled as feed. Only 180,000 cows were ever diagnosed with BSE, but scientists believe nearly one million were actually infected. And although there have been fewer than 100 cases of nvCJD, the total could rise to more than 100,000, according to several European authorities on the disease.

In 1997, the FDA tried to put up a fire wall by making it illegal to give supplements of cooked ruminant remains—including elk—to cattle and sheep. But that action may have come too late. In the wake of a simi-

lar ban in 1988, British companies sold off stocks of poisoned feed. “We didn't find a region of the world that didn't get these materials,” says WHO medical officer Dr. Maura N. Ricketts. Mislabeled feed contributed to the spread of BSE in Europe, she says.



In the U.S., inspections have been a problem. In the two-plus years since the FDA ban has been in place, only two-thirds of licensed feed mills have been inspected; in 20%, the feed was not labeled properly. Only half the estimated 8,000 unlicensed mills have been inspected—of which 40% were found in violation of labeling requirements. Now, with thousands of tons of tainted feed stockpiled in Europe, there's concern that smuggled product could get into the mix.

Livestock testing also seems to be inadequate. Months prior to showing symptoms, cows can have infectious BSE—and there's no sure way to find out. Last year, the USDA examined just 2,600 cows—all of them either “downers” or neurologi-

cally damaged animals that are considered to present the highest risk. Linda A. Detwiler, USDA's BSE surveillance coordinator, would like to expand testing. But with 100 million cows and no reported BSE cases in the U.S., “where do you throw the dart?” she asks.

Food isn't the only way to spread poisonous prions. Blood, long considered safe, has recently come under scrutiny. “The infectivity levels are low and not very efficient. But it's there, no question about it,” says Robert Rohwer, director of neurovirology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Baltimore, and a consultant to the Red Cross, FDA, and European Union on blood issues. Tissues for surgical transplants—everything from corneas to knee tendons—represent another transmission risk. Yet in the U.S., there is no screening for nvCJD.

Billions of dollars have now been spent on eradication since mad cow was first diagnosed in 1985. But it is the growing number of nvCJD victims who are the reminders of the true price to be paid for today's shortsighted policies. A recent move by the USDA to tighten the import ban on meat and meat by-products from Europe is a step in the right direction. So is the FDA's review of blood and tissue donor policies. But as long as there are wild cards such as CWD—and tons of BSE-tainted feed sitting in storage—the danger cannot be minimized.

Ginsburg writes about science and the environment from Chicago.

TO PREVENT MAD-COW DISEASE, THE U.S. SHOULD:

IMPOSE a full mammal-to-mammal feed ban like the one just adopted in Europe. Today, the FDA only stops ranchers from giving their herds protein feed made from rendered cows, deer, and other ruminants.

INSPECT all high-risk “downer” cattle prior to slaughter. Right now, such cows can be taken straight to rendering plants without inspection.

FUND the rapid development of diagnostics for prion diseases in live animals and humans. No such tests exist right now.

INCREASE inspection staff and require more physical inspections of all imported meat and meat by-products.

TAG and track elk on game farms.

DEVELOP donor screening protocols to prevent contamination of human blood and tissue supplies.

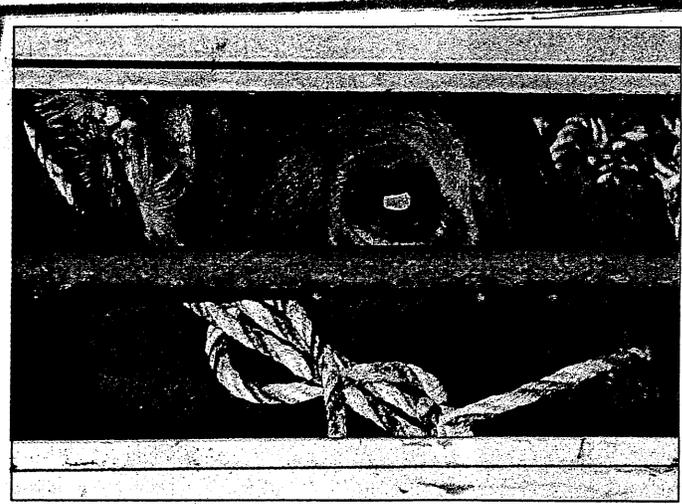
IMPROVE surveillance for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease by providing funds for more autopsies at hospitals. Today, doctors needn't report CJD.

BUSINESS

NESS

Wisconsin State Journal

Wisconsin State Journal



Associated Press photos

A cow peers from a truck while waiting to be transported to a dumping factory early Tuesday morning after one of the 75 cattle from a farm in Niederstaufen, in southern Germany, tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

World asks about 'mad cow' disease

Steps have been taken by the United States to try to keep the deadly disease out of the country.

By Antonio Regalado and Steve Stecklow and Sarah Lueck and Scott Kilman and Jennifer Ordonez
The Wall Street Journal

The first human case of "mad cow" disease was discovered in Britain more than five years ago. Britain has drastically overhauled how it feeds and slaughters cattle, but fear of the fatal illness has since moved to continental Europe, with the discovery of new cases of sick cattle in several countries.

Now, concern in this country has escalated, even though the disease has yet to be found in the United States in either cattle or humans. The government has taken steps such as blocking imports of certain animal feeds and restricting blood donations from people who have lived in Europe. So far, U.S. beef sales have remained strong.

Here are some questions and answers about the disease, how it is spread and what is being done to prevent any U.S. outbreak.

Q: How many people have died from or been infected with the human version of mad cow disease (called new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease) and in what countries?

A: There have been 83 confirmed deaths in Britain; five more people are thought to be symptomatic and are still alive. There have been several other deaths reported in other countries, including France and Ireland.



Italian butcher Sandro Belardinelli, right, and his wife, Caterina, show the daily catch on sale at their store in Rome on Friday. Belardinelli, who comes from a long line of butchers, recently transformed his "Antica Macelleria," or Antique Butcher's Shop, into a fresh-fish-only store. The discovery of a cow infected with mad cow disease in an Italian slaughterhouse that supplies meat to McDonald's restaurants there has sent beef sales plummeting in Italy.

Q: Where did this disease come from and when did it arise?

A: The cattle disease known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, is be-

lieved to have begun in Britain in the 1970s. Scientists still don't know its origin, but some suspect it may be the

Please see MAD COW, Page F8

Mad Cow

Continued from Page F1

result of feeding rendered sheep remains to cattle. Sheep can suffer from a related brain disease called scrapie.

Scientists believe the disease jumped the so-called species barrier from cows to humans, but don't know exactly when. The first known human victim, 18-year-old Stephen Churchill, died in Britain in May 1995.

Q: How does it spread to humans?

A: The prevailing theory is that people catch the disease from eating beef that contains misshapen "prion" proteins. Prion proteins are a normal component of human and animal brains, but if they assume the wrong shape they can build up into plaques that are toxic to brain tissue.

Q: In what types of meat products are the misshapen prions found?

A: The infectious prion proteins are believed to be present primarily in the brain and spinal cord of cattle. Steaks and other muscle tissue from cows haven't been found to harbor the disease. But brain and spinal cords are sometimes mixed with meat accidentally during slaughter, or in mechanical meat separation processes that in Britain were used to produce filling for pies, sausages and hamburger patties. Dairy products are believed to be safe.

Q: Can food products be tested to see if they have prions? Does cooking kill the prions?

A: Right now, the only reliable place to test for prions is in the brains of infected animals. Commercial products such as steaks, sausages or cosmetic products that contain cow material are not generally tested for prions.

Cooking won't destroy the bad prion proteins. They can withstand radiation and even autoclaves designed to disinfect surgical instruments.

Q: How long is the gestation period for those who have been infected? If you went to Europe years ago and had beef, could you still come down with the disease?

A: The incubation period of new-variant CJD remains a mystery. Studies of related diseases suggest it could be anywhere from a few years to decades. Once symptoms appear, most victims die within 14 months. But scientists say your chances of contracting

the illness are remote.

Q: Can you be tested to see whether you are infected?

A: Currently, testing usually is done during an autopsy, when brain tissue can be sampled and analyzed. But scientists hope to develop a blood test sometime in the future.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: The symptoms of new-variant CJD include severe, progressive dementia, hallucinations and uncontrolled body movements. Doctors also can diagnose the disease based on changes in EEG, or brain wave activity. There is a naturally occurring version of CJD with similar symptoms, however. Doctors can tell the difference upon autopsy.

Q: Are there any treatments?

A: Not yet, although some companies have begun testing drugs that could help. But these efforts remain small scale; since so few people get the disease, it isn't a priority for pharmaceutical firms. Scientists studying prion diseases are coming up with new ideas for how they could be prevented or cured. For now, the disease is always fatal.

Q: How great is the risk that mad cow disease has entered the U.S. food supply, or will enter it?

A: The short answer is the risk appears to be low. The United States did import 496 cattle from the United Kingdom and Ireland during the 1980s, when BSE was widespread. Mad cow disease was first confirmed in British cattle in 1986. About 32 may have entered the food chain, but it isn't known whether they were infected. The rest have been either traced, incinerated or tested. Of those tested, all results were negative.

The United States stopped importing British beef in 1985 for reasons unrelated to mad cow disease. So far, no cases of BSE have been found here.

Q: What types of safeguards are U.S. authorities pursuing to prevent BSE from entering the country?

A: In 1989, the United States banned imports of live cows and sheep from countries affected by BSE. Banned soon after were many products derived from these animals. In 1997, the ban was extended to all of Europe.

The United States bans the import from Europe of any type of rendered animal protein, regardless of species. Rendered animal protein was widely used in Europe as a supplement in livestock feed.

The Food and Drug Administration since 1997 has banned U.S. farmers from feeding mammal protein to "ruminants" such as cattle, sheep and goats. A recent report by the FDA showed that rendering plants and feed suppliers have for the most part adopted the rules, but the remaining lack of compliance leaves open the possibility that ruminants might eat feed made from mammals.

Q: Should I stop eating all meat to be on the safe side?

A: For now, there seems to be no reason for alarm in the United States.

Q: Why is the United States cracking down on blood donations? Can the disease be spread by human blood and blood products?

A: Although there is no concrete evidence that new-variant CJD can be passed between people by blood transfusions, the United States has taken the precaution of asking people who have lived in Britain for a total of six months or more between 1980 and 1996 not to donate blood. At a meeting of the FDA Thursday, experts recommended that the ban be extended to people who have lived in France, Ireland or Portugal for 10 years or more since 1980.

U.S. officials also are considering rules that would require screening of donors of tissues and cells for their travel history due to concerns that new-variant CJD might be passed through human corneas, skin and other transplanted materials.

Q: What are fast-food restaurants doing to combat any customer concerns?

A: There is no sign that concern has prompted Americans to cut down on hamburgers. But in Europe, fast-food companies are taking pains to assure consumers that their beef products are safe. For McDonald's Corp., which says it follows all required safety and testing guidelines, that means a continuing campaign in stores and in media across most of continental Europe.

Analysts say the company, which derives nearly 36 percent of its operating income from Europe, will need to be particularly vigilant about any contamination and how it responds to public concerns. A BSE-infected cow was recently discovered at an Italian slaughterhouse that supplies beef to McDonald's outlets in Europe. McDonald's says it hasn't ruled out instituting testing standards that exceed what is required by law.

Canadian Food
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Canadian Food Inspection Agency Fact Sheet

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of Deer and Elk

What is it?

Chronic wasting disease is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of cervids such as mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk. It is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, or TSE. Other TSEs include scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans. Although the exact cause of CWD is unknown, it is believed to be caused by a disease agent that is smaller than a virus. There is no treatment or vaccine currently available for the disease.

How is it transmitted?

The mode of transmission is not known at this time. It is thought that the disease can be passed from the mother to her offspring or between animals in a herd.

Is there a risk to human health?

There is currently no scientific evidence that CWD can affect humans. However, there is scientific evidence that suggests that other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies that affect animals may also affect humans. Health Canada closely monitors information on TSEs that may affect the Canadian public, to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to minimize potential exposure to this group of diseases.

What are the signs?

Animals with CWD may show a number of different signs as the disease slowly damages their brain. They may include a lack of coordination, unusual behavior, paralysis, weight loss, difficulty swallowing, and increased thirst and urination. Signs may last for weeks to months before the animal dies. Animals are usually three to four years old before clinical signs appear, but may be as young as 18 months or as old as nine years.

How is it diagnosed?

The disease is tentatively diagnosed based on clinical signs, but can only be confirmed by laboratory examination of brain tissue from the affected animal. There is currently no laboratory test available to test for the disease in live animals.

Where is CWD found?

Chronic wasting disease was first seen in Colorado, in 1967, in deer belonging to several research facilities. Since then, the disease has been diagnosed in captive and wild deer and elk in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. Recently, CWD has also been found in farmed elk in Nebraska and South Dakota.

In the 1970's, CWD occurred at the Metro Toronto Zoo, in a mule deer that had been imported from a zoological park in Colorado. The mule deer was humanely destroyed and incinerated. In 1996, CWD was diagnosed in Saskatchewan in a game rancher elk that had been imported from the United States. All animals that had been exposed to the disease were humanely destroyed.

Chronic wasting disease has recently been diagnosed in a rancher elk in Saskatchewan. The elk's dam had been imported from the United States.

CWD has not been reported in wild deer or elk in Canada.

What does the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) do to prevent CWD from entering or becoming established in Canada?

Under the *Health of Animals Act*, the CFIA has the power to act when a suspect case of CWD is found. This may include quarantine and destruction of all exposed animals.

The CFIA routinely monitors for CWD. Each herd is tested every three years for tuberculosis, and at that time agency inspectors examine each animal for signs of neurological disease. In addition, all deer and elk sent to provincial laboratories for post mortem are screened for CWD as part of an ongoing surveillance program.

In 1988 a Captive Ungulate Program was created because the health status of game farmed deer, elk and bison was not well known, and they posed a potential health risk for the spread of tuberculosis and brucellosis to Canadian cattle. In 1990 it became mandatory for a permit to be issued in order to move an animal, thus allowing for the monitoring of all movement of these species.

Since 1990 there has been a ban on the importation of deer and elk from the United States.

Are products like venison or powdered antler velvet from animals that have been exposed to CWD safe?

According to Health Canada there are no studies available on the safety of tissues from elk with CWD. In studies using mice experimentally infected with scrapie, another TSE, muscle and skin tissues were not found to be infectious, at any detectable level.

However, we have to be very cautious in using these results to predict the safety of products from infected or exposed elk, since test results from one species do not necessarily apply to another.

Michigan Considers Bovine TB Status Change For Some

Michigan agriculture officials decided last week to lift the "high risk" bovine tuberculosis designation in seven northeast counties, including Ogemaw, Iosco, Roscommon, Oscoda, Otsego, Crawford and Cheboygan.

Under the agriculture commission's new ruling, those seven counties would shed their high-risk status on Mar. 1. The decision still needs final approval from the state's agriculture director.

The four northeastern counties where TB has mushroomed among white-tail deer are Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle. There, more than 300 deer have tested positive for the chronic lung disease since the state began testing deer in 1995. State officials believe deer pass the respiratory disease to cattle, possibly when mingling together at feed piles. About a dozen cattle farms have tested positive for bovine TB in the same four-county core area. 2/22/01 AB/AV/52



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Feb

Bovine TB in Michigan elk could affect state herd

Staff Reports

Madison — News that bovine tuberculosis was found for the first time in a Michigan elk initially threw doubt on Wisconsin's ability to establish an elk herd in the Central Forest Region, but there may still be hope for a Jackson County herd, according to a DNR official. "I wouldn't jump to any conclusions on finding a source for elk or finding negative animals for the program," said Bill Mytton, the DNR's deer, elk and bear ecologist.

Mytton said that despite the fact this Michigan cow elk will likely test positive for bovine TB, Michigan still has the most heavily monitored and tested herd of any possible donor states.

He noted that the cow elk was found on the eastern edge of elk range, where bovine TB is more common, than on the western end of elk range, where bovine TB is less common.

Wisconsin had intended to trap elk this winter from the western end of Michigan's elk range for release into Jackson County. However, delays caused by habitat assessments for endangered species in Jackson County also swamped the elk trapping efforts.

"I wouldn't read too much negative into this right now," Mytton said. "If we get elk anywhere, we still have to consider chronic wasting disease (CWD), for which there is no test on a live animal, and brucellosis. What it does is heighten our awareness. We will continue going forward. I'm not saying we're going with Michigan, but I'm not ruling them out, either," Mytton said.

Members of the Natural Resources Board ad hoc baiting and feeding committee received an update on the elk from Michigan officials Jan. 23. Michigan disease experts attended the committee's meeting that day to offer insights to that state's battle to contain bovine TB.

What was found in Michigan

A cow elk shot by a hunter during Michigan's December season, is likely infected with bovine tuberculosis.

"It's not completely from out of the blue, but it's still a sad day," said Dr. Stephen Schmitt, wildlife veterinarian with the Michigan DNR. "It's something we've been concerned about for a long time because elk range overlaps range in which we've found TB in deer. That (elk) is our premiere big game animal and we'd prefer not to have TB in our elk."

Although further testing is being conducted to confirm the preliminary test results, Schmitt said he was nearly certain the elk, a 5-year-old cow that was shot in Montmorency County, is infected with the same strain of TB that is present in Michigan's white-tailed deer herd

Bovine TB surfaced in Michigan wildlife in 1994 when a deer hunter in southwestern Alpena County shot an infected buck. Since that time the state has tested 62,790 deer and 334 have been positive for TB. "We have found 49 TB positives from more than 25,000 deer samples

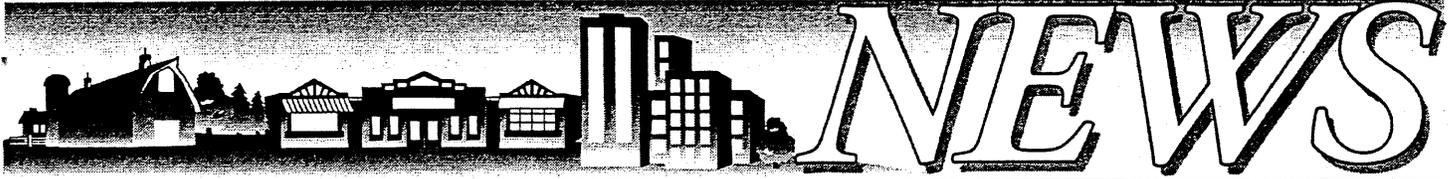
Place Ad Call 800-975-3333

Place Ad Call 800-975-3333



that have been tested so far this year," Schmitt said. Of those deer, 46 were killed in Unit 452 in the counties of Montmorency, Alcona, Alpena, Oscoda and Presque Isle. The other three came from Crawford, Otsego, and Emmet counties. This is the first elk to test positive, out of 790 that have been tested in the past three years. Although Michigan DNR wildlife experts did not expect a change in the state's elk plans right now, Michigan's "elk group" will meet in February to discuss bovine TB concerns.

The eradication program for the state's deer herd calls for a county-wide baiting and feeding ban in any county an infected deer is found. It also calls for aggressive TB testing of deer in that county, as well as measures to reduce the deer population to a level in line with the natural carrying capacity of the land. A feeding ban already is in place for deer and elk throughout elk range in the northern Lower Peninsula. In addition to deer and elk, TB also has been found in 10 coyotes, four black bear, two bobcats, two opossums, two raccoons, a red fox, and a house cat. Eleven cattle farms and one privately-owned cervid farm have also been diagnosed with TB-infected animals.



PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911

Web site: <http://datcp.state.wi.us>

DEALERS, INSPECTORS, VETERINARIANS
NEED TO LOOK HARDER FOR TB, SAYS STATE VET;
SETS MEETING DEC. 13 IN STEVENS POINT

For release: 11/21/00
Contact: Donna Gilson
608-224-5130

MADISON—Animal health officials are stepping up their vigilance against bovine tuberculosis inside Wisconsin's borders, following up on new tighter import rules aimed at keeping the disease out of the state.

Division of Animal Health veterinarians will be working with livestock dealers, veterinarians and meat inspectors to increase and improve surveillance techniques aimed at finding any hint of bovine TB in Wisconsin. The state is now classified free of bovine TB.

Members of those groups, and the general public, will get a chance to discuss the division's plans at a meeting in Stevens Point Wednesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1501 N. Point Drive. For more information, call 608-224-5130.

"With the situation in Michigan, we need to be doubly alert to maintain our TB-free status," said State Veterinarian Dr. Clarence Siroky of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "We're protecting our own state's herd health and our access to markets in other states and other nations. And we need inspectors and livestock dealers and veterinarians to be our first line of defense after good on-farm biosecurity."

Wisconsin enacted an emergency rule in August to tighten bovine TB testing requirements for cattle, goats, and domestic deer, and elk that enter the state from Michigan. Michigan is battling an epidemic of bovine TB, with more than 280 cases discovered in its wild deer herd, and 11 infected cattle and domestic elk herds.

The increased attention to TB surveillance will be three-pronged:

- State veterinarians will work with state and federal meat inspectors at slaughter plants to increase the number of tissue samples submitted for TB testing. When inspectors find lesions on carcasses that resemble those caused by tuberculosis, they send the tissue sample to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory for testing.

(more)

Voluntary Johne's indemnity program on table

*Dairy Today
Feb 2001*

Dairy industry groups are close to hammering out specifics for a voluntary nationwide Johne's indemnity program. After that, the industry will meet with USDA officials to discuss funding.

Jim Krahn, executive director of Oregon Dairy Farmers, says the effort has been a two-year process, bringing producers and industry representatives together to discuss a nationwide Johne's control and eradication program with incentives. National Milk Producers Federation is currently in the process of helping the effort move forward at the regulatory level.

Even though there are voluntary national and state Johne's-control programs in place, producers have been slow to adopt them.

"Our group was concerned about that," Krahn says. "We didn't see producers getting on board as quickly as we'd like. Some states have active

Johne's programs. But 75% of the states have nothing or very little."

While the details are still being refined, Krahn says everyone involved agrees that a national indemnity program should be voluntary—at least in the beginning. There are two ways the program could end up being mandatory, however: If U.S. scientists link Johne's and Crohn's disease, then Johne's becomes a human health issue and it must be eradicated. Or, after a few years into the indemnity program, if dairy industry leaders decide some producers should be enrolled but aren't, they may make it mandatory.

In general, under the proposed program, Johne's indemnity payments would be made only to producers with Johne's-positive cattle who have tested their herds, progressed through certain levels of Johne's education certification and implemented biosecurity controls. The indemnity payment would be \$900

per animal plus the beef check.

The dairy industry groups plan to meet again in early March to discuss how the final program will look, according to Krahn.

"I guarantee you, there will be a program and it will have teeth in it," he says. "It will have some form of on-farm management plan [included] so we're not just continuing to fuel the problem. And we'll also find a way to publish lists of people involved so producers could find herds that are Johne's-free [from which to purchase cattle]."

—Paula Mohr

For more information about Johne's check these Internet Web sites:

www.usaha.org/njwg.html

www.vetmed.wisc.edu/pbs/

johne/index.html

www.crohns.org

12/20/00
TCF

More herds being tested for Johne's

By Casey Langan

Regional Editor

MADISON — The number of Wisconsin cattle herds being tested for Johne's disease is on the rise.

Last week, members of the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection were updated on the Johne's Disease Management Market Program and the revised implied warranty law that took effect in July.

Education of producers continues to be a main component of the program, said Libby Balzer, director of the state's Johne's Disease Management Market Program.

She cited recent figures that show 388 beef and dairy herds have been classified so far, with another nearly 200 herds in the process of completing split herd testing for classification (compared to 175 in 1999). A classified herd must agree to testing 30 head or 30 percent of the herd, ages 36 months and older.

Of the classified herds,

129 were graded an A (all tested animals were negative), 91 were a B (low level of the disease), 130 ranked a C (5 percent to 15 percent of the herd infected), and 38 received a D (more than 15 percent infected). Four goat herds also are classified.

By the end of November, the number of ELISA blood tests conducted at the

WISCONSIN
Veterinary
Diagnostics
Lab was
151,000, up
by nearly
8,000 from
last year's
total.

Dr. Balzer noted another 30,000 Wisconsin cases may have been tested this year at Cornell University or South Dakota.

She said about 350 state herds still use a vaccine appropriate for heavily infected herds.

A growing number of farms are doing diagnostic tests. This means that although they are not to the

level of wanting official credit for what they are doing, the educational effort is working, Dr. Balzer said.

In this time of low milk prices, many herds won't be tested at all until they are somehow affected, she added.

The number of test-positive animals remains at about 11 percent of samples submitted. Positive animals are

required to be ear punched with a "J" prior to sale.

Some producers decide to keep milking cows that have tested positive, but ship them

when they require additional veterinarian costs.

State officials say they have noticed more signage at cattle sales and sale barns that indicate whether the cattle have been tested.

Dr. Balzer said many large producers are testing cattle prior to calving to see whether they should feed the cow's colostrum. Others test

replacement heifers before they are brought into the milking herd.

Agriculture Secretary Ben Brancel warned of heifers advertised as being tested for Johne's.

"It's nice that you're interested in the program but we think they're using it as a marketing tool that's not necessarily accurate," he said.

He asked that producers recognize the validity of the test since Johne's usually won't show up in heifers and first-lactation cows.

"Just because someone said they tested their heifers, don't think there's something unique or beneficial about that," he said.

Dr. Balzer said new tests are being developed, some of which could cut in half the 12 to 16 weeks it now takes to develop a fecal culture test. The culture test is more accurate than the ELISA blood test, she said.

She also added that research continues on a possible bacterial link between Johne's in cattle and Crohn's disease in humans.

About 350 state herds still use a vaccine appropriate for heavily infected herds.

END



END

To do / Agriculture committee statewide meeting August 2000

- ✓-select dates
- ✓-select places --✓-revise places
 - get directions, nearby accomodations
- ✓-select invited speakers / presentations
- ✓-send out an advisory to ag papers/others media
- ✓-approval from Speaker
- ✓-approval from Min. Leader

- ✓-contact by phone all ag cmte members - heads up
- ✓-select core ag members
- ✓-select sub-committee members
- ✓-inform leg.council Mark by phone
- ✓-inform Sgt's staff Steve by phone

✓ prepare list of ag related orgs

- ✓ inform all ag cmte members about selection for sub cmte.
 - find out cost share for porta-potties etc. (yes)
 - ag committee notice hard copy / fax with all details / incl. leg. c. + Steve sgt's office
 - ✓-full press release/ fax to caucus to media
 - ✓-invites to ag related public and organizations / fax / email ERIN
 - ✓-Speaker Jensen / Rep. Krug sign green permission form

send out maps/directions to confirmed members of subcommittee
confirm leave times, meet places.

- confirm locations / accommodations for events with Equity and Ext
- confirm attendance of members
- confirm attendance of presenters etc.

✓-confirm pages / Steve

~~-determine overnight needs~~

- determine travel needs / carpooling
- reserve cars from fleet thru Mary Ellis 6-1108
- Steve/sgt's office need car by Fri 8/25 for 8/28th hearing

- page car? Beata car? Mark?
- AL? Other members?

-confirm with Charlie reimbursement

send notice to members representing the districts was in along with crute notice?

-prepare materials to present and hand out at hearings:

- list of what State Assembly has done for ag recently
- what the State /Governor has done /from Jeff
- Federal Legislation being considered /summary
- resources file (financial, counseling etc)

ask Steve

Malle looking into

- *- Recorder hearing slips
- portable speaker mics for Dulane hearing
- copies of hearing list us / tape paper etc

ask Jeanne Meyer with Hughes for materials too?

and name plates

Call: Kealey Gov ext. take with.

create forum attendees // info packets

Hearings / tape // info packets

Copies of press releases / agenda

type readers / tapes

Renewable loans / name wash stuff

materials

- CHARLES / FOLEY
- MICS
- BATHROOMS
- FOOD
- PARKING

- 24 - Share
- 29 - Mikes
- 31 - Share

carpool needed 8/24, 8/29, otherwise travel by self

and maps
send notice
confirmation
calls
Re: dates

Rolling Sub-Committee

Assembly Agriculture Committee Distribution List

✓ (24, 28, 29, 31)	none	Ott					
✓ none	Petrowski	4 west	6-1182	715 / 84506193	mess.		
✓ none	Hahn	15 west	6-3404	920/ 348-5765		NO 24, 29, yes to 28, 31	Not at all will call bank
✓ (24, 31)	Kestell	17 west	6-8530	920/565-2842	will try	At left message 8/11	will call bank
✓ (24, 31)	Spillner	10 west	6-7746			no 8/28, 29	yes 24, 31
✓ none	Suder	21 North	7-0280		mess.		
✓ (24, 29)	Ainsworth	302 North	6-3097	715/526-3810	28 th am ?	yes 24, 29, 31	as of 8/11 will call bank
✓ (28)	Sykora	8 north	6-1194	715/ 288-6490	will try	yes to 28	will call bank

✓ (24, 29, 31)	Gronemus	112 North	6-7015	715/ 538-4130	24 th no	yes 28, 29, 31	
✓ none	Lassa	122 north	7-9649				as of 8/17/00 Irene can't make any! NO 31st will call bank
✓ (28)	Plouff	306 west	6-7056	715 / 235-0917	yes 28th	no to 24 no to 29 no 31st	will call bank
✓ none	Reynolds	126 north	6-7506				call Decker .../out for 2 wks.
✓ (24, 29, 31)	Steinbrink	307 west	6-0455	262/694-5863	28 th no	other yes	will call bank
✓ (31st)	Waukau	210 North	6-7694				call bank 8/17/00 man make it with call bank

- ✓ Mark / Leg.council
- ✓ Beata /Ott's Office
- ✓ Sgt's office /Steve

yes (24, 28, 29, 31st) Daria Lovell LC
yes all from
on 28th, 24, 29, 31st =

✓ 29th Wane

A1

8/18/00
4:45 pm

Will Hughes suggestion

Reps from the following groups at each:

- (1) UW - Jones, Bruce 265-8508
Dobson, Bill 262-8965
Jessey, Ed or 262-6348
Clemmy, Rich

River Falls ~~Nathan Splett~~

Nathan Splett
715 425-3188

- (2) USDA
Farm Center

- (3) Wheada
Farm Credit
Financial

- (4) Farm orgs
like Farmers Union

- (5) Commodities
Dairy
Pork
Beef
Vegetable, Potato
Corn, Soybean

Ask each to present a status report...
started to Federal side

Napralla, Erin

From: Doug Caruso [doug.caruso@wi.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2000 2:54 PM
To: Rep.Ott
Subject: FSA Reps at Listening Sessions

Al,

Thanks for inviting FSA to have employees knowledgeable about FSA programs at the Listening sessions to be conducted by the Assembly Agriculture Subcommittee.

The FSA representatives will be:

8/24 - Richland Center - Barb Tock, District Director, Western WI

8/28 - Durand - Julie Dokkestul - Pepin County Executive Director

8/29 - Johnson Creek - Pete Overlien - Jefferson County Executive Director

8/31 - Reedsville - Joe Janowski - Manitowoc County Executive Director

Best wishes for a successful series of listening sessions.

Doug

Kalies, Beata

From: Moll, Keeley A DATCP
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2000 2:53 PM
To: Kalies, Beata
Subject: DATCP attendees

Hey Beata:

Here's a list of the DATCP employees who will be at the listening sessions.

- ✓Jeanne Meier - Farm Center
- ✓Dr. Clarence Siroky - Animal Health, State Veterinarian
- ✓Ron Tauchen and Bob Battaglia - WASS (Ron will be there tomorrow, and Bob the rest)
- ✓Joe Tregoning - Deputy Secretary (every day except tomorrow)

I hope this is ok with Al. Talk to you soon.

Good luck,

Keeley

Status reports with a slant to Federal Government side

Guests:	Aug. 24 th Barn Rich. Ctr.	Aug. 28 th Farm Durand	Aug. 29 th Barn John. Creek	Aug. 31 st Barn Reedsville
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UW EXT.

Center for Dairy Profitability
 Bruce Jones 265-8508
 Bill Dobson 262-8965
 Nate Splett 715/425-3188

- ✓ Calumet 920/849-~~1450~~ 1450
- ✓ Pepin
- ✓ Richland
- ✓ Jefferson 920/674-7295
- ✓ Manitowoc 920-683-4167

Bruce ext. agent Bruce ext. agent

Jerry Campbell

Bob
~~Steve~~

USDA / DATCP

Farm center
 Dairy
 Animal health
 Stats *Bob Battaglia*
 All Joe

Jeanne Meier *Jeanne Meier* *Jeanne Meier* *Jeanne Meier*
Dr. Siroky *Dr. Siroky* *Dr. Siroky* *Dr. Siroky*
Bob Battaglia *Bob* *Bob*
 Joe Tregoning Asst. Sec. At all hearings
not from

F SA Doug Caruso

8/24 - Barb Tock, District Director Western WI
 8/28 - Julie Dokkestful, Pepin Cty. Exec. Dir.
 8/29 - Pete Overlien, Jefferson Cty. Exec. Dir.
 8/31 - Joe Janowski, Manitowoc Cty. Exec. Dir.

GOVERNOR'S

Jeff Schoepke
 Dairy2020 Tim Griswald will try

Tim

AGVIEW
Joan Samst

interview Beata over phone

Dave Natyke Dairy Bd.

Joan

Status reports with a slant to Federal	Government side			
Guests:	Aug. 24 th	Aug. 28 th	Aug. 29 th	Aug. 31 st
	Barn Rich.Ctr.	Farm Durand	Barn John.Creek	Barn Reedsville

FINANCIAL

WHEDA James Langdon Farm Credit 1800-444-FARM	James	James	James	send stuff
--	-------	-------	------------------	------------

FARMER ORGS

Farmer's Union
Prof. Dairy Pro. of WI
414/644-0855 Shelly

COMMODITIES

Dairy
Pork
Beef
Veggie, potato
Corn, Soy

Kraft Foods

Pete Christenson at all hearings →

LEGISLATORS

Sen Schultz RC
Rep. Albers RC
Sen. Moen Dur
Rep. Ward JC
Sen. Fitzgerald JC
Sen. Lasee Reeds.
Rep. Lasee Reeds.

~~Sen Schultz~~
Sen Albers

←
Sen Fitz

maybe
Rep. Ward

Staff

MEDIA

- Agricultural papers /
- Weekly papers/ local
- Big papers
- Radio/ TV

Agriview Today
 Country State Farmer
 advisory sent ✓
 8/15/02 4PM

AGRIVIEW -
 608/ 250-4162
 608/ 250-4155 fax
 Tues latest. NOT in
 advisory press
 8/15

fox / news
 & press
 release
 present
 sent
 8/16/02

COUNTRY TODAY
 Jim Massey
 715 / 833-9275
 715 / 833-7439 fax
 Tues 3PM
 ADVISORY NOT IN
 8/15

State Farmer
 Carla Gunst
 715 / 258-5546
 715 / 258-8162 fax
 Wed 4PM
 ADVISORY maybe
 yes.

Wheeler
 Cliff Miller -
 Agneton Post

Heather / Carvens
 forward press release
 to all media

Erin will put together updated lists
 Erin will draft advisory and press release

Mailing List

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

✓ **Hard copy** to all Agriculture Committee members and Legislative Council member

*w/ letter
& markers*

— **Hard copy** to Assembly and Senate authors of bills on committee notice

E-Mail Agriculture Committee members

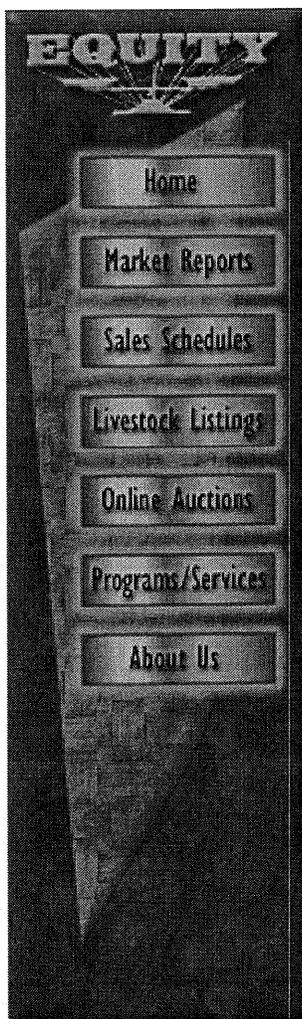
- ✓ ✓ All Assembly
- ✓ ✓ All Senate
- ✓ ✓ Keeley Moll-DATCP
- ✓ ✓ Ben Brancel-DATCP
- ✓ ✓ Jody Nussbaum-Bulletins *cc*
- ✓ ✓ Steve Krieser-411 West *Sgt. staff*
- ✓ ✓ Heather Smith-Repub. Caucus
- ✓ ✓ Adam Raschka-Repub. Caucus
- ✓ ✓ Chair-Senate Agriculture Committee *clausiny*
- ✓ ✓ Joel Riemer – Governor's office *J.R. Schepke*
- ✓ ✓ Todd Stuart – Lt. Governor's office

- ✓ ✓ All ser
- ✓ ✓ All Asm
- ✓ ✓ clausiny
- ✓ ✓ Krieser
- ✓ ✓ Nussbaum
- ✓ ✓ Raschka
- ✓ ✓ Smith
- ✓ ✓ Stuart
- ✓ ✓ Schepke
- ✓ ✓ W-Ber
- ✓ ✓ Keeley

Fax – Joan Sanstadt-**Agri-View**-608/238-3966
Jan Shepel-**Wisconsin State Farmer**-608/849-6727
Casey Langan-**Country Today**-608/884-2630
Ann Paulmann-**Wisconsin Farm Report**-608/271-3822

Bulletin Boards-Assembly ✓
Senate ✓
Document Room ✓
Press Room ✓

All Press Boxes / boxes



Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association

Auction Markets

ALTOONA

5150 Hwy. 53 South
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: 715-835-3104
Fax: 715-835-6617
E-mail: ealtoona@discover-net.net

Market Manager: Dave Fishbaugher

Regular Sales: Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, 11:00 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
Dairy Sales: Every Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
Fed Cattle: Second & fourth Tuesday of the month
Feeder Pigs: Monday, noon
Slaughter Hogs: Monday, Wednesday & Friday,
7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Altoona Market Report](#)
[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

ARLINGTON

N1703 Goose Pond Road, P.O. Box 230
Arlington, WI 53911
Phone: 608-635-4376
Fax: 608-635-2095
E-mail: equityarl@jvlnet.com

Market Manager: Gary Georgeson

Fed Cattle: Private treaty available. Contact market.
Feeder Pigs: Private treaty available. Contact market.
Slaughter Hogs: Daily cash market. Call early.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

BARRON

1684 13 1/2 Avenue, P.O. Box 7
Barron, WI 54812
Phone: 715-537-5618
Fax: 715-537-3497

(Al has made a courtesy call to all of the managers but they'll work thru Mike + Greg)

E-mail: ebarron@chibardun.net

Market Manager: Dick Murray

Regular Sales: Monday, noon
Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: Monday, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.
Dairy Sales: Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.
Fed Cattle: Monday, 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Feeder Pigs: Monday, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.
Slaughter Hogs: Monday & Thursday,
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Barron Market Report](#)
[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

BEETOWN

8478 Shortcut Road, P.O. Box 731
Beetown, WI 53802
Phone: 608-794-2111
Fax: 608-794-2414
E-mail: ebeetown@pcii.net

Market Manager: Vernon Kruse

Regular Sales: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: First & third Saturday of the month,
11:00 a.m.
Fed Cattle: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Beetown Market Report](#)
[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

BONDUEL

455 N. Cecil St., P.O. Box 277
Bonduel, WI 54107
Phone: 715-758-2125
Fax: 715-758-2469
E-mail: ebon@bonduel.tds.net

Market Manager: Ed Sandstrom, Jr.

Regular Sales: Monday, 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.
 Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Feeder Cattle: Third Wednesday of the month, 1:00 p.m.

Fed Cattle: Monday, 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.
 Thursday, 10:30 a.m.

Feeder Pigs: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

Slaughter Hogs: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday,
 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Bonduel Market Report](#)
[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

ETTRICK

N22747 Hwy. 53, P.O. Box 186
 Ettrick, WI 54627
 Phone: 608-525-3011
 Fax: 608-525-3911
 E-mail: ettrick@win.bright.net

Market Manager: Kevin Johnson

Regular Sales: Monday 1:00 p.m.

Feeder Sales: Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.

Dairy Sales: Second & fourth Thursday of the month
 1:30 p.m.

Fed Cattle: Monday, 1:00 p.m.

Slaughter Hogs: Monday, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Go to the Ettrick Market Report](#)
[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

JOHNSON CREEK

N6225 County Y, P.O. Box 219
 Johnson Creek, WI 53038
 Phone: 920-699-3588
 Fax: 920-699-3578
 E-mail: ejc@globaldialog.com

Market Manager: Neale Jones
 Assistant Market Manager: Gail Goehring

Regular Sales: Monday, 11:00 a.m.
 Tuesday, noon
 Thursday, 11:00 a.m.

Feeder Cattle: Thursday, 2:00 p.m.

Fed Cattle: Monday, noon

Tuesday, noon
 Thursday, noon
Feeder Pigs: Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
Slaughter Hogs: Daily cash market. Call 1-800-989-6627.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Johnson Creek Market Report](#)

[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

LOMIRA

N11579 Industrial Dr., P.O. Box 230
 Lomira, WI 53048
 Phone: 920-269-4351
 Fax: 920-269-7150
 E-mail: elomira@fdldotnet.com

Market Manager: Pat O'Brien

Regular Sales: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.
 Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: Friday, 11:30 a.m.
 Last Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.
Dairy Sales: Friday, 1:00 p.m.
Fed Cattle: Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Feeder Pigs: Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.
Slaughter Hogs: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Lomira Market Report](#)

[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

MARION

E7254 County Hwy. S, P.O. Box 37
 Marion, WI 54950
 Phone: 715-754-5227
 Fax: 715-754-4405
 E-mail: emarion@frontiernet.net

Market Manager: Steve Wilke

Regular Sales: Monday, 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.
Feeder Cattle: First and third Thursday of the month
 November - March, 1:00 p.m.
 April - October, 7:00 p.m.
Dairy Sales: First and third Thursday of the month
 November - March, 1:00 p.m.
 April - October, 7:00 p.m.
Fed Cattle: Monday, 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.
Feeder Pigs: Monday 7:00 p.m.

Slaughter Hogs: Monday 7:00 p.m.

[Go to the Marion Market Report](#)

[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

MONROE

N1365 Hwy. 69, P.O. Box 557

Monroe, WI 53566

Phone: 608-328-8344

Fax: 608-328-8340

E-mail: e-monroe@utelco.tds

Market Manager: Dick Zuelke

Regular Sales: Monday, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, noon

Feeder Cattle:

Second & fourth Friday of the month

October - April, 1:00 p.m.

Second & fourth Thursday of the month

May - September, 7:30 p.m.

Dairy Sales:

Every second & fourth Tuesday of the month

October - April, 1:00 p.m.

May - September, 7:30 p.m.

Fed Cattle:

Monday, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, noon

Feeder Pigs:

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.

Slaughter Hogs:

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday,

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact Doug Hastings at

608-329-3909 or 815-369-4267.

Lamb Pool:

Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Monroe Market Report](#)

[Return to Auction Market Locator Map](#)

REEDSVILLE

513 North 6th, P.O. Box 155

Reedsville, WI 54230

Phone: 920-754-4361

Fax: 920-754-4775

E-mail: ereed@lakefield.net

Market Manager: Greg Cummings

Regular Sales: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

Feeder Cattle:

First Wednesday of the month

December - April, 1:00 p.m.

May - November, 8:00 p.m.

Dairy Sales:

First Wednesday of the month

December - April, 1:00 p.m.
 May - November, 8:00 p.m.

Fed Cattle: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
 Thursday 1:00 p.m.

Feeder Pigs: Monday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Slaughter Hogs: Monday & Wednesday

Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Reedsville Market Report](#)
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RICHLAND CENTER

26702 County Hwy. O
 Richland Center, WI 53581
 Phone: 608-647-6151
 Fax: 608-647-8076
 E-mail: erc@mwt.net

Market Manager: Tim Leonard
 Dairy Manager: Paul Denman

Regular Sales: Monday, 10:00 a.m.
 Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

Feeder Cattle: First & third Thursday of the month
 September - June, 1:30 p.m.
 July - August, 7:00 p.m.

Dairy Sales: Second & fourth Thursday of the month,
 1:30 p.m.

Fed Cattle: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Slaughter Hogs: Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday. Call early.

Lamb Pool Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Richland Center Market Report](#)
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RIPON

W13355 Hwy. KK, P.O. Box 91
 Ripon, WI 54971
 Phone: 920-748-2855
 Fax: 920-748-2998
 E-mail: eripon@fdldotnet.com

Market Manager: Chris Kooiman

Regular Sales: Monday, 12:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, noon

Feeder Cattle: Last Monday of the month, noon

Dairy Sales: Last Monday of the month, noon

Fed Cattle: Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.

Feeder Pigs: Private treaty. Contact Steve Wilke.

Slaughter Hogs: Daily cash market. Call early.

Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

[Go to the Ripon Market Report](#)
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SPARTA

6089 State Hwy. 16, P.O. Box 535
Sparta, WI 54656
Phone: 608-269-3104
Fax: 608-269-1085
E-mail: cen43565@centuryinter.net

Market Manager: Kevin Johnson

Regular Sales: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Dairy Sales: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Fed Cattle: Wednesday, 11:00 p.m.
Feeder Pigs: Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.
Slaughter Hogs: Monday through Wednesday,
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

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STRATFORD

EP4363 State Hwy. 97, P.O. Box 51
Stratford, WI 54484
Phone: 715-687-4101
Fax: 715-687-3273
E-mail: estratford@tznet.com

Market Manager: Roger Thompson
Assistant Market Manager: Jerry Fitzgerald

Regular Sales: Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
Feeder Cattle: Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
Dairy Sales: Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.
Fed Cattle: Monday & Thursday, 2:00 p.m.
Feeder Pigs: Wednesday, noon
Slaughter Hogs: Wednesday, noon
Lamb Pool: Please see [Lamb Pool Schedule](#).

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WAUKON

1645 Hwy. 76 North, P.O. Box 468
Waukon, IA 52172
Phone: 319-568-4501
Fax: 319-568-2059
E-mail: ewaukon@salamander.com

Market Manager: Gary Whittle

Regular Sales: Thursday, noon
Feeder Cattle: Second & fourth Wednesday of the month
Dairy Sales: Thursday, noon
Fed Cattle: Thursday, noon
Feeder Pigs: First, third and fifth Thursday, 11:00 a.m.
Slaughter Hogs: Monday through Friday,
7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Contact Don Kruse at 319-568-4545

[Go to the Waukon Market Report](#)
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For additional information, please call 1-800-362-3989
or e-mail us at: mailbag@equitycoop.com.

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IDEAS FOR AG CATE MTF. STATEWIDE

- AI - state wide? PDL, NE, Waupun, La Crosse, Janesville
- bring visibility to issue, we sponsor, lead
 - not political, important on issue
 - talk to articulate with producers, see farms ...
- Ag. chat session first, followed by press conference / release
-

Ben - For info only

- collect data to forward to Fed Gov. in Report "State of Ag Econ. in Wisconsin"
-

Mick - 3 locations,

- vent
 - Ben testify to propose 5 mil. aid (Rep. initiative)
 - do before Aug, before primary Sept 12th
 - press conf. w/ media { news, dairy, info
results reported
 - w/ Steinhilber, Gronemus,
-

AI - Media "idea", not conference, more for info

- News forum organized w/ invited press
- meet w/ "2 dozen people", "host" event for producers + media
- provide "leadership" to issue
- Steinhilber? other ag ^{cate} members? to go with

Homework: stats, info avail, media