

## Canada: Current Agriculture News and Issues

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### Officials discover another BSE case

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**A cow infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was found on a farm in Alberta on January 23, 2005. Canadian officials explained that no parts of the animal were entered into the distribution channels marked for human consumption. Key industry players doubt that the BSE case will affect trade with other countries and hopes to sustain the profitability of the industry.**

A spokesperson for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced on January 23, 2005 that a cow located on a farm in the province of Alberta has been tested and diagnosed with mad cow disease. Although no tissues or bones of the infected cow were found in the human food chain, key players in the industry have reason to be concerned after overcoming the devastating two year ban that many countries imposed on Canadian beef after the string of BSE cases discovered in late 2003.

Further investigation of this most recent case concluded that the animal was born in 1997, over two years after the country banned the practice of using recycled cattle parts in cow feed. The CFIA indicates that the underlying problem stemmed from residual pieces of cattle left in the feed after the ban was imposed. However, the agency points out that the old feeding method has been eradicated and all cattle under the age of 30 months are safe to consume.

The Canadian beef industry reportedly incurred losses totaling US \$7 billion dollars during the global ban on the country's beef products. The ban was imposed in December 2003 and has been lifted by most countries, to date. South Korea was the only country that had yet to remove their ban and resume trading with Canada. Both countries were in the process of discussing new trade deals, however all talks with South Korea have been suspended as a result of the latest BSE discovery.

Canada does not expect that the BSE case will affect international trade since the infected cattle would not have been on the market for trade with all countries agreeing to accept cattle aged less than 30 months. The CFIA continues to work on destroying BSE in their livestock and is confident that all Canadian beef is safe for consumption.

SOURCES: Dow Jones International News Service, the Globe and Mail, and the Miami Herald

